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CREDIT RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

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Light Lines

Journal of the Credit River Anglers Assiciation

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Summer 2011

Inside this Issue:

Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Simposium A Huge Success

Great support and reviews make first annual informational symposium work

The Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Symposium took place on April 9, 2011, to provide information to anglers regarding the status of the fisheries, and the ecology that supports them. This information is critical to making informed decisions regarding management actions that effect fishing for all of us. The symposium was collaboratively hosted by the Credit River Anglers Association and the Port Credit Salmon and Trout Association. The event was attended by both the Honourable Linda Jeffrey (Minister of Natural Resources), who presented the opening remarks, and Hazel McCallion, who expressed her support for the fishery.

In case you missed it, here's a recap of the main messages of the presentations:

Steve LaPan – Great Lakes Fisheries Section Head, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

Steve presented information on the status of the trout and salmon fishery in Lake Ontario. 2010 had the highest catch rates of Chinook and steelhead, following a record low in lengths of Chinook in 2009. There was also a spike in catches of Atlantic salmon (3000), which is a small but encouraging number. Sea lampreys continue to be managed as 1 adult can kill 40 lbs of fish per year.

A study of wire-coded Chinooks revealed that 21% of Age 1 fish in Lake Ontario are wild (naturally reproduced), and 36% of Age 2 fish are wild. In the Salmon River, 51% of Age 1 Chinook are wild and 57% of Age 2 Chinook are wild. In the western U.S. tributaries where the habitat is not as good, wild Chinook are 12% of Age 1 fish and 17% of Age 2 fish respectfully. Of note is that Chinook were recorded straying away from natal streams all over Lake Ontario.

The Chinook fishery is strongly tied to the abundance of prey fish in the lake. The main forage species by far and away being the alewife. Alewife populations in the lake fluctuate widely but in 2010 there was a major rebound in the number of yearling alewife following a crash in the number of adults in 2006 and 2010.

The goal of Chinook management in Lake Ontario is for trophies. The average adult in Lake Ontario is 22 lbs, which is much greater than the other Great Lakes. Conservative stocking ensures that there is enough forage for Chinooks to get large. In Lake Huron, over-stocking resulted in an alewife crash, which resulted in very poor condition of Chinooks (8lbs 3-year old Chinooks).

Dr. Tom Stewart – Program Advisor – Great Lakes Ecosystems, Lake Ontario Management Unit, OMNR

Dr. Stewart presented on the ecology of Lake Ontario's open waters. The food chain starts from plankton, who get eaten by zooplankton, who get eaten by other zooplankton and small fish including alewife, who get eaten by larger fish including Chinooks. This simple food web is changing due to the invasion of exotic species, which effect the amount of energy passing up the food chain. This has resulted in a decrease in edible zooplankton species for alewife, a change in alewife diet and behavior, but good growth rates despite the changes. Concurrently there have been record catches of Chinook. The reason is unknown but could be due to increased water clarity and associated increased angler efficiency. Continued on Pg. 7...

Hatchery Success
Heath Trays bring bring instant improvement to the CRAA Hatchery

Joe Ward

This past spring saw CRAA collect our 50,000 green eggs from wild Credit River steelhead at the Streetsville dam. Thanks to the amazing heath tray system we installed, the hatch was 95% and with excellent survival to date we have at least 46,000 steelhead fry

New hatchery heath trays look to keep better care of CRAA eggs and fry

in our raceways. This spring also saw us install our old raceways to grow out fry for the first month. These smaller raceways make it much easier to feed and maintain the smaller fish until they are large enough to be placed into the larger tanks.

As summer passes by the CRAA volunteer team has done an extraordinary job maintaining our fish. Every day a volunteer spends 2 hours or more cleaning tanks, loading feeders, checking on fish health and more. As of July the coho are averaging 4-5" in length, the steelhead are 35mm and the steelhead we held over from spring are packing on the weight. This summer CRAA volunteers and our summer crew will be installing the last two tanks we purchased last year to add space for growing fish.

Steelhead fry in the raceway, 4-5" Coho in the tank below

Spring Fish Ladder and Transfers
Streetsville Fish Ladder Operations from Fall 2010-Spring 2011

Mark Polanski

Another fall and spring have passed and only good things could be said as new records were set once again. CRAA, along with over 120 different volunteers worked together and processed close to 2000 steelhead this spring alone. Records for total steelhead transferred, total lifted and most lifted in one night were all broken.

We reached our transfer quota of 1200 wild steelhead to proper spawning grounds. Including fall transfers we have broken the previous record by 25%, setting new records for wild fish every year since 2005. This year alone we had seen a huge return in 3, 4 and 5 year old fish from past transfers making their journey back up river to spawn once again.

Mother Nature did not cooperate with us very much spring, limiting the number of days we had to process fish because of cold conditions but it didn't seem to slow the fish down!

When the window opened and the sun started shining, we new overtime could not be avoided. The majority of our evenings ranged anywhere from 250-350 steelhead processed per night. Our largest night being 362 fish processed, which had kept us working into the dark. Many more fish could have been processed, but with transfers done and our quota almost reached, the ladder was left open to allow free passage to Norval. Big thanks to all the volunteers who managed to come and help out this year. Also, a big thanks goes out to Kraft Canada for letting us continue our operations and making a difference in not only the Credit River, but in our community as well.

See you all next spring, with the current trends we will need as many volunteers as we can get our hands on!

Massive spawning effort from Steelhead in 2011

CRAA spawning survey shows excellent results for 2011 year-class

John Kendell

What has been described as the best steelhead action in 20 years on the Credit resulted in the highest redd counts ever by CRAA volunteers. Volunteers walked over 7km of Black/Silver Creek and covered many reaches below Norval to monitor spawning activities. With a record fall 2010 and spring 2011 transfer we had record redd counts in the tributary as expected. Yet the lower 2 km of the stream only had 1 redd, showing the transferred fish seem to spawn at or upstream of release sites. Other reaches had good redd densities, however the system is still far from potential with many huge gravel bars being empty or only holding one redd when they could hold dozens each. Overall we counted over 600 redds in the system. On the main Credit below Norval we counted so many redds we simply lost count. Some popular gravel bars had five waves of steelhead spawn over them since the fish were blocked by Norval passage. Close to 2,000 redds were estimated in the 3 km below the Norval Dam, with several hundred more in nearby tiny tributaries. Steelhead were seen spawning into the second week of June this spring as well. No doubt from the increased runs and late spring. Fresh run steelhead were in the Credit for almost 10 full months, from late August until early June. Talk about a world-class fishery!

A pair of CRAA tagged Steelhead on a redd

Protecting the Credit River

CRAA Volunteers do more than just plant trees and lift fish

Oli Hajny

CRAA volunteers attend and comment on many development and construction projects that may impact the watershed. CRAA is often circulated to public notices when there is a bridge or road project, municipal strategy review or major construction work planned along or over the river. This is one of the many behind the scenes projects CRAA volunteers are involved in to protect the fishery and river. Oli Hajny, a long time CRAA member is our lead volunteer for these meetings.

In the near future there will be several construction projects with a possible impact on the Credit River. CRAA is voicing our concerns to organizations involved and hopefully we will be able to minimize the construction impact on the river, fishery and wildlife.

QEW Credit River Bridge involves a rehabilitation of the existing bridge together with adding six new lanes to the bridge crossing over the Credit River. This is a long term project with rehabilitation work starting this year and widening of the bridge and QEW in 2015. The present plan is to stay out of the river, but new piers to support the bridge will be needed within the valley.

CRAA was involved in the public design phase of this huge bank stabilization project built by Mississauga over the winter of 2011 downstream of Britannia Road

HWY 401 Improvements from Highway 410 to Trafalgar Road are planned. This will include the high occupancy vehicle lanes, bridge widening and extra lanes for collector traffic. The project is in the preliminary design stage and construction date yet to be finalized.

TransCanada Parkway Pipeline project involves crossing the Credit River in Huttonville area with 42" pipe. Crossing will be by directional drilling under the riverbed with the construction date set for 2012. This should minimize impacts on the river.

Mississauga Parks Strategy. The City of Mississauga is reviewing and planning their long-term parks plan for the Credit River. CRAA has been involved in private consultations to voice our concerns and opportunities for the valley. Protecting and maximizing access for anglers and fishing as well as the preservation of the natural valley are at the top of the list.

All these projects will be closely watched by the CRAA board to prevent any negative environmental mishaps

CRAA Steelhead Tournament - April 30, 2011

New tournament format brings a more competitive atmosphere and great results

Justin Elia

Our annual spring steelhead tournament was a great success with 13 teams, 27 anglers and many fish in the system. The challenge was high water! The river was running at March levels, clarity about two feet and a mix of fresh, spawning and drop back trout to be had. With the high water the fish could be anywhere.

The tournament was run as a cash prize for first, second and third place, with 50% of the proceeds going to CRAA for conservation work. A new a new record for most total inches was set by team Kendell and Syzmanski. And with Rick Syzmanski in true form he lost at least 10 other fish. All prizes were handed out as draw prizes ensuring every angler went home with some swag.

1st Place - 331" (13 landed) - John Kendell and Rick Syzmanski ($200) - with a 3rd wheel - Andrew who landed his first two bows on a float reel ever! Rick lost about 8 good hook ups too. He shall be known forever as Rubber Hook Ricky!

***2nd Place** - 80" (3 fish) - Elias and partner ($140)*

***3rd Place** - 52" (2 fish) – Oli Hajny and Joe Capriotti ($100)*

***Big Fish** - 1st - Elias' partner (34"), 2nd - John K (31")*

Team Peter C and Mark P were 1/10 - I suggest they buy some new tippet and hooks!

Top draw prize winners were Oli (Raven Float Reel) and Joe (Islander Float Reel).

Many thanks to our sponsors:

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The 2011 Steelheat Tournament participants enjoying lunch after a fun morning on the water

Smolt Wheel

MNR, CVC and Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program parner on juvenile salmonid assesment

The Smolt Wheel installed on the Credit in the spring to study natural reproduction numbers

The MNR lake unit, in partnership with CVC and the Atlantic salmon partnership has a smolt wheel running on the Credit River in Meadowvale. The trap is designed to catch smolts and other fish and hold them alive in a cage that is checked daily by CVC and/or MNR staff. The wheel slowly spins and traps fish as they drop back in the river. Staff track all species and conduct further research on salmon and trout. The trap has been successful at catching Chinook, steelhead, brown and Atlantic salmon smolts, as well as many minnow species. This research will shed light on numbers, size and health of smolts leaving the river to aid in our knowledge of natural reproduction and success of various stocking programs. The trap can be lifted out of the water when not in use. MNR has marked a portage around the trap and asks canoeists to exercise caution while in the Meadowvale CA area.

Alternative Methods for Resident Brown Trout

Fish the Upper Credit with a float or spinning reel?

The Forks of the Credit area from the Cataract down to Inglewood holds a very good resident brown trout fishery. The section is one of the most beautiful on the Credit, with ample cold water springs, deep pools and fast riffles. It is also a popular fly fishing destination. Several years ago CRAA and other partners supported regulations to reduce harvest by adding a zero limit for rainbow, brook and brown trout and extending the zone of single barbless hook and artificial bait/lure/fly only. This has arguably improved the population, but it has further reduced angler use by the public who are confused or even misinformed about the regulations.

This is a truly fabulous section of river and should not be overlooked by steelheaders or anglers that do not fly fish! You can use a spinning reel, float reel and even a red and white bobber, as long as your hook is barbless, has a single point and you use artificial bait such as plastic worms, flies, spinners or body baits like a Rapala.

Many anglers report being confronted by other well intentioned anglers who state they must be fly fishing. This is FALSE! The regulations do not require fly fishing at all. Before you fish simply take a pair of needle nose pliers or your forceps and pinch the barb flat on your hooks. If tossing spinners or body baits you must remove all trebles and replace them with one, single point hook (with the barb pinched). Many spinners come new in the box with both a treble and a single hook allowing for easy change.

Spinners and lures:

Small spinners such as size 1 and 2 are perfect most days and size 3 is good in high water. An assortment of silver, gold, and other colours is a good bet. Try different presentations from casting across a pool or casting from the top at 45 degrees and allow the spinner to slowly swing across the river. Target deep pools, undercuts and fast troughs. You can also try casting upstream in deeper pools and retrieving with the current. A body bait like a Rapala can entice those big 20" browns to come out from hiding for an easy meal.

Plastic worms

Pink worms have been a huge hit with steelhead anglers for years now. These and other artificial worms often produce some quality trout and can be deadly effective on resident browns. Make sure your worms are plastic and not organic based to stay within the laws. Best presentations are float fishing or bottom bouncing a small worm (2"-5") in size, depending on water level and clarity. Again try various colours including brown, tan and red. The famous fly called the San Juan Worm is essentially the same thing, just made from thread and wool. The same tactics targeting deep pools and undercuts is the key.

Float Fishing

Using a float is a very popular method of trout fishing and can greatly increase your success rate when targeting heavily fished trout. A small balsawood or clear plastic float is best, scaled to the stream and water level your fishing. What you choose to drift on the hook, as long as it is artificial is up to you. Some anglers fish flies, such as stone fly nymphs with excellent success, while others use woolly buggers or streamers. Again the pink or plastic worm works well with this type of set-up too.

Best access to the reach is the Inglewood area, by taking Highway 10 to Forks of the Credit Road and accessing one of the reaches in that area from a bridge crossing the river. Some areas are posted and some are open to fishing. So find an open section and enjoy! Remember to keep fish in the water, follow the regulations and have a fantastic time. It's also a great spot to bring kids to experience some beautiful scenery, trails and fishing in summer, close to home.

Upper Credit Brown Trout fooled by a Meeps spinner

Proper handling technique (displayed in many of these shots) is key to their survival after being released

Browns are often difficult to spot against the gravel bottom

Another resident brown taken on a pink jig

Another spinner took this gorgeous brown

Green Drake Report 2010 - Henry Frania's 2010 findings

Researcher Henry Frania from the ROM has provided CRAA and other partners with his 2010 Green Drake report looking at the Credit River and several other area rivers. It appears the bugs have improved in quantity in the past 1-2 years, but are still well below their historical range in the Credit. Reports from the Forks suggested a good hatch this year, albeit a few days late due to the cold spring. Henry was out every day this spring tracking flies and speaking to anglers. His report can be found in full on the CRAA website. Below is a sub adult Green Drake photographed by John Kendell in 2011 at Lowville Park.

A Bronte Creek green drake photographed in Loweville Park.

Soil Erosion in Brampton Continues

Neither government nor developers want the responsibility of sediment clean-up

Below is a photo of Springbrook Creek at Creditview Road on May 19, 2011 showing the small creek running bright red from soil erosion of a construction site. This is the same creek and same site that produced severe erosion last October. Brampton planning staff assured CRAA that this would be resolved last fall...yet the muddy water proves they have not done their job. Water was fairly clear at Queen Street at the same time this image was taken. Worse yet, last fall CRAA contacted MNR, MOE, CVC and DFO about the sediment release. CVC staff have been diligent monitoring erosion, but they have little legislative authority. Whereas MNR, MOE and DFO have made files, taken witness statements and done absolutely nothing further. DFO enforcement officers closed the file without laying charges in April on last fall's sediment release.

A picture of the run-off that flowed directly into the Credit River in the Brampton region can be seen below.

Sediment ridden run-off from a Brampton housing development site was the source of two major water quality concerns on the Credit

Norval Fishway - Functional and the fish seem to like it!

The Norval fishway was completed in May 2011. The MNR has been running tests on the new ladder and is currently developing the safety protocols. CRAA's President, John Kendell has been working with MNR to assist in the safety and operation plans for the ladder as well. The first test lift yielded 12 species of fish including juvenile brown trout and steelhead. But the exciting news was not the trout, but the minnows. The trap had well over 500 minnows including flathead minnows, shiners and chub. The surprise were the three largemouth bass around a pound each! If species that do not jump are using the ladder we are confident it will be easy passage for larger trout and salmon!

MNR staff in conjunction with CRAA president John Kendell tested the Norval fiway and found 12 different species of fish using the passageway

Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Simposium A Huge Success

Continued from page 1...

Dr. Stewart also revealed that terrestrial insects are important in the diet of first year Chinooks in the lake, as are gobies and benthic invertebrates. Once Chinook exceed 30 cm in length they are alewife-dependent.

The lake, like any natural system, is limited in its capacity to produce fish. Each step in the simplified food chain noted above, carries forward far less than 10% of the energy from its total biomass. If alewife populations in this food chain crash, so too will growth and condition of Chinooks. The challenge in managing the Chinook fishery is to balance the number of Chinooks in the system with the number of alewife available for them to eat. Simply stocking Chinook in greater numbers will not result in a greater number of catchable fish, but it may threaten alewife populations, on which the Chinook depend. In Lake Michigan, crashes in alewife population lead to decreases in Chinook but increases in steelhead, as steelhead are less dependent on alewife out in the lake.

A question was raised about the possibility of dumping nutrients in Lake Ontario to stimulate fish production. Dr. Stewart responded that we have spent the last couple decades reversing the effects of excess nutrients in Lake Ontario with the intent of cleaner waters closer to historical conditions for the benefit of society, including fisheries, and that going back to the polluted state is not an option. In addition, simply adding nutrient to the lake will not necessarily increase the ability of the lake to support the desired fish species, and may result in blooms of detrimental algae species for example.

Andy Todd – Manager Lake Ontario Management Unit, OMNR

Andy's presentation focused on the management objectives and actions for a world-class trout and salmon fishery in Lake Ontario. The management goal is for a diversity of salmonids (salmon and trout species) in balance with prey fish populations and lower trophic levels (i.e. phytoplankton, zooplankton, forage fishes). Chinook are currently managed as a put and take trophy fishery with a moving average of Age 3 20lbs fish.

Deep-water cisco is being reintroduced to Lake Ontario, with the intention of diversifying and thus stabilizing the prey fish available for salmonids.

Steelhead are being managed with the goal of natural reproduction with supplemental stocking.

Atlantics are being stocked at different life stages to determine which achieves the greatest survivorship.

Coho are only being stocked in the Credit River currently.

2.4 million salmonids were stocked via Ontario, and 3.6 million salmonids were stocked via the U.S. in Lake Ontario in 2010. Andy noted that these are scary numbers, given that the greatest threat to the Chinook fishery is too many Chinooks. This is because they have the ability to deplete their prey (alewife).

Dr. John Dettmers – Senior Fishery Biologist, Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Dr. Dettmers presented on the threat of Asian carp to the salmon and trout fisheries. The bighead and silver carp currently threaten to invade the Great Lakes via the Chicago shipping canal. There are electric barriers in place but flooding provides an avenue for carp to circumvent the barriers. In a study, no tagged fish passed the electric barrier, but DNA evidence of carp on the other side of the barrier in the Des Plain River, has been found. The canal cannot simply be shutdown because of highly complicated infrastructural reasons.

The threat to salmon and trout via the carp goes back to Dr. Stewart's presentation on the ability of the lake to support fish. These carp eat phytoplankton, and themselves can achieve a maximum size of 40 kg. Because they eat phytoplankton, they reduce the amount of food for zooplankton, which reduces the amount of food for small fish and alewife, which reduces the amount of food for Chinook and steelhead.

Dr. Roger Bergstedt

Dr. Bergstedt presented on a fascinating study of extreme vertical movements of Chinooks in Lake Huron to depths exceeding 600 feet. Chinooks showed a lot of movement between 40-60*F. During the day they tended to go deeper and colder, and shallower and warmer at night, but this trend was not consistent between fish. A single fish was recorded travelling from 40 feet to 300 feet in 1.5 hours. Another individual was recorded in late December moving from 15 to 700 feet several times a day. Another individual travelled from 50 to 300 feet and back to 75 feet in 30 minutes. The take home message to anglers was that deeper fish are under-exploited. depend. In Lake Michigan, crashes in alewife population lead to decreases in Chinook but increases in steelhead, as steelhead are less dependent on alewife out in the lake.

CRAA looks forward to next year's Trout and Salmon Symposium as well as further partnerships with the Port Credit Salmon and Trout Association.

Report Atlantic salmon catches to CRAA!

Please report any Atlantic salmon you catch or you see caught to CRAA via e-mail or hotline. Include any details you can such as date, location, bait/fly, size, etc. We are trying to learn about these new fish and their habits to better succeed in the reintroduction process. Remember that the specific targeting of this species in Ontario tributaries is prohibited. Email us: info@craa.on.ca or contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.

For more information on the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program visit their website: www.bringbackthesalmon.ca

Summer Heat Stress

Planting projects have great impact but no match for this summer's water temperatures

Cameron Walker

A very wet spring and cold weather had CRAA hoping for another banner trout and salmon year in the rivers. Sadly the summer heat wave that recently passed has derailed what could have been a record year class on the Credit River. With air temperatures breaking 32-35C for days in a row and 4 weeks of no rain the river dropped and heated up substantially. Water temps hitting 29.4C were recorded at Norval, 28.5 at Glen Williams and 30.5 at Erindale. The lethal limit for adult Atlantic salmon is about 30.5C and 28-29C for steelhead. Chinook adults die around 27C. This summer heat wave has been the worst in at least a decade. No doubt thousands of young trout and salmon perished due to the heat below Norval. This further adds to the argument that all trout and salmon species need better access past Norval to enable survival during our hot summers.

CRAA volunteers monitoring the situation found hundreds of smolts and fry taking refuge in tiny tributary mouths and spring seeps along the river. The good news is with substantial rehabilitation many of these refuge areas have been created or improved by CRAA's efforts. Tributaries that once ran hot on a summer day are now running cold. In one small hole the size of a bathtub over 500 young trout and salmon were seen, along with an atlantic grilse! The water was only 24C in the pool, while the adjacent river was 30C.

The other good news is that maximum water temperatures were well below record highs, recorded in 1998-2001. Back in 1999 CRAA recorded 95F (35C) at Eglinton Avenue! This year the hottest temperature seen was only 30.5C! At Glen Williams we recorded 31C in 1999. This summer the hottest was 28.5C! Solid evidence that the massive riparian reforestation work and ongoing watershed wide work to remove dams, improve tributaries and bottom draw ponds has made a huge and positive impact on the Credit River. Even in the hottest summer it now appears adult Atlantic salmon can survive all summer long. And with the Norval fishway and improvments to the Streetsville fishway these fish can quickly ascend the river to find the cool headwaters!

Summer Tree Planting and Rehab Crew

CRAA again received funding to hire a summer crew of 3 students. They were hired in late May and have been working hard to plant trees, maintain the nursery and continue maintenance on past planting sites. The crew will work through to late August. If you see them in the field be sure to say hello and if you would like to help just drop us a line.

The summer crew planting at the falling rocks using the canoe to transfer the trees across the river. Zero Emissions!

The Credit River through Mississauga Over time
A historical look at how Erindale Park came to be

David Culham

It is satisfying to know that John Kendell and the Credit River Anglers support the retention of the present policies of naturalizing the Credit River valley within Mississauga. Given the problem of tonnes of dead salmon resulting stinking valley, I was very much involved in the formation of the group. The large bolder program, the fish ladder exercise, the monitoring of fish numbers and habitat, the annual tree planting exercise, all relate to improved habitat and water quality. Improved water quality is good for everyone.

When attending the first public meeting with old members Bob Semenyk and Eric Fisker of our Friends of the Valley, it appeared that the hired consultants had little awareness or appreciation of the long term policies in place that had transformed the agricultural valley of 1974. To them it was luck that presented opportunities for activity in the valley. Of course, John's emphasis is on water quality and fish habitat.

The Credit River, after the last ice age, spilled down from the headwaters north of Orangeville some 90 km north of the Port Credit river mouth. The river tributaries amount to much more at 1500 km, stretched across a watershed covering some 1000 km2. While the main stream presents an average flow of 8.12 m3/s, it floods at a damaging maximum of 501 m3/s and a minimum flow in summer of 0.085 m3/s. This situation creates water quality challenges in summer and erosion and sedimentation year round. I presented more of the Credit's history in a 1980-81 TV show for Cable 10 that now exists as a DVD.

As a newly elected Council member at 31 years of age, I walked through the Chappell property in the winter of 1974, with my 3-year-old son David. He had on a winter coat of Erindale blue with a hockey tuque. It was cold but beautiful. The snow scrunched under foot. As I took his picture, the idea of that moment being replicated in the future, became a hope if something was done. Over the next three decades, while other issues such as computer traffic signals, curb-side recycling and "Blue Box" etc, were important interests of mine, preserving the Credit River as a natural space became an over riding and continuous task.

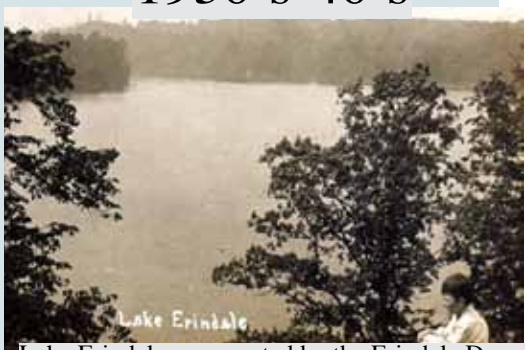
In Erindale, remnants of the hydro- electric plant persisted south of the village. The historic dam remains but Lake Erindale disappeared after authorities blew up the dam in 1946. In 1974, north from Burnhamthorpe Rd, the valley in the main, presented as private properties of orchards, grain fields, and grazing lands for cattle with one park at the Streetsville arena. As in Erindale earlier, authorities breached the earth dam in Streetsville during the late 1960s. It contained the lake for the small hydro-electric plant at Streetsville and its edges persist to the present. Two industrial milling plants, started in the late 1880s, existed in south Streetsville and do to this day. Two small sewage treatment plants, one at Streetsville near the arena and one at Erindale off Credit Heights, were removed as industrial activities in 1974.

In terms of public consciousness, the valley was the ignored "back beyond" of the valley rim properties; out of mind and out of sight. If considered as other than a barrier or as a danger from flooding, the valley represented utilitarian purposes. People did not perceive it as a connected open space. Property lines extended over the valley rim and into the valley itself. Other than the Provincial Conservation Authorities Act coming out of the late 1940's, the only legislation that implied a lower intensity of use was the 1973 Provincial Greenbelt legislation. This crossed the Credit River at the future 407 and 403 alignments but also extended south from the proposed 403 corridor into Erindale. The then MPP Doug Kennedy and the Premier Bill Davis, assisted the new councillor of 1974 against the attempts at removing that designation on the Erindale woodlot.

In 1974, Council approved our policy initiative of dedication of all lands below the top of bank for those potentially developed in the future. The first land dedicated free of charge occurred in 1976, in Erindale just north of Dundas in the creation of Ballyclare Dr. Hundreds more came into public ownership by this same process over the next decades.

Previously in 1973, a developer of a subdivision extension of Jarvis Street in old Erindale Village sued an environmental group who had lobbied the Town Council at the last minute, to not allow the lots to extend over the bank and down into the valley. He had proposed the same thing in 1972 for the Town and CVC to take the lands but they did not want them. When we realized the negative that the CVC had to pay municipal tax, we changed the new City policy so that all valley lands are dedicated to the City and thus incur no tax. Erindale lands were leased to the City for nominal fee and thus do not pay tax. Valley lands acquired in Brampton and Caledon still require taxes.

Erindale
1930's-40's



Lake Erindale was created by the Erindale Dam seen in the photo below...

In 1975, Council approved our initiative called the "Mississauga Forest Concept" with the purpose of creating a large future forested valley northward from Erindale Village to the north end of the City. We expected to achieve this by naturalizing the valley floor and combining it with existing woodlands on the slope and above the "top of bank". The large Erindale Woodlot was the first purchase in 1976 in conjunction with the purchase of the Rattray Marsh. We intended structuring future pedestrian movement by way of a continuous pedestrian pathway. Continued on Pg.7...

Credit River Anglers Association
Light Lines
Editor: Cameron Walker

Contributions are welcome from all members and non-members alike

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CRAA would like to thank the following individuals for their contribution to this newsletter:

The Credit River through Mississauga Over time

Continued from page 9 (David Culham)

The garbage dump created in 1964 at Erindale would become a massive passive park in 1985 with rock fill from the construction of the City Hall. We removed the previous baseball diamond and the soccer pitch.

The Erindale Woodlot was first down zoned in 1975 in a landmark rezoning case from apartments to townhouses with the actual woodlot purchased in 1976.

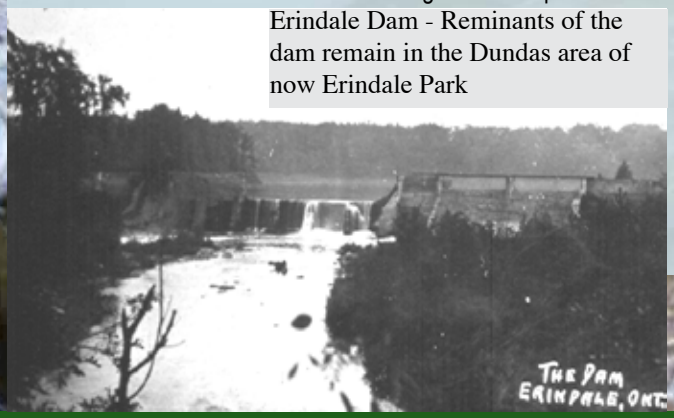
We formed the Friends of the Valley in 1981. In addition we created the city financial vehicle for receiving donations in the Mississauga Credit River Valley Foundation. Valley lands purchased after 1981 occurred through the developer funded Major Park Fund. We purchased all the property from Dundas to the 403, with the valley lands of Hylard Chappell being gifted through our discussions. Hundreds more hectares came through negotiated gifts by Erin Mills Development Corp, Muriano Elia, Steph Hewick, ADM Milling and others. Planners John Rogers and Glen Schnarr were also very instrumental in directing land gifts to the city.

While tree planting started in the 1974 to 1976 period, it was organized in earnest in 1981 when we organized annual volunteer tree plantings. In 1974 only two stands of cedar existed, the most significant one north of the 403 on a north facing valley wall. All the cedars that you now see came from our annual ward 6 volunteer planting from 1981 to 2000. We averaged annually 4500 potted trees from 1981 to 2000. The present head of the Credit River Anglers, John Kendell, who has done so much for the Credit River fishery, was a teenage planter in Erindale.

In the 1990's critical soil conservation measures occurred. This slowed the rate of soil erosion on road and development construction. Major creeks like the Carolyn Creek were reforested through volunteer "sweat equity" plantings. The Streetsville Scouts began an annual Mullet Creek clean up in 1992, which continues to this day.

The progressive evolution of storm water retention pond occurred over the 1980's and 1990's. The huge retention ponds in Erin Mills obviated the need for the earlier de-energizing facilities seen at Dundas. In the 1990's in Meadowvale, three different types of detention ponds were created, with the last on the east side of the river being the most sophisticated. From the beginning, It was planted with aquatic plants.

Today the earlier 1975 vision is well on its way. The valley has been transformed into a forested environmental oasis involving fully 50% of the City's open space. So I suggest that today there is no need to change but to simply enhance existing plans by continuing to naturalize the Credit River valley and its tributaries like Carolyn Creek. More trees provide shade cover, thus retarding the rise in both water temperatures and rates of erosion. We need to focus on improvements to the fishery and water quality, enhancing a great local sport. We should continue passive recreation with walking, biking, running and snowshoeing. By continuing the central Trail but limiting other trail access to the remainder of the valley, we can encourage enhancement of existing habitat for both plants and animals. How many cities have preserved a deer herd close to its centre. Let us extend the future started begun in 1974, into your children's future.



Erindale Dam - Reminants of the dam remain in the Dundas area of now Erindale Park

Get Involved with CRAA

CRAA is always on the hunt for conservation minded individuals interested in the preservation and betterment of the Credit River fishery. If you are interested in getting involved, contact our executive team at: info@craa.on.ca

Report all Atlantic Salmon Catches to MNR or CRAA

Call CRAA's Hotline (905) 814-5794 or 1-877-TIPS-MNR to report any and all Atlantic Salmon Catches.

Do your part to bring back this heritage species and release all river caught Atlantics... It's the LAW!