

# LIGHT LINES

SPRING 1993

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## THROUGH THE TURNSTILES

Someone once observed that the whole, is only the sum total of all its parts. A somewhat more astute revelation was also made to me recently, being that fly fishing with a nymph, is kind of like eating prunes. Sometimes, it is absolutely necessary, but no one can actually be proud of the results.

This sort of sums up what C.R.A.A. has been going through in the last year. The whole, became a hole and the parts, they kind of ground to a halt... and nobody can be too entirely proud of our results.

I have always taken a certain comfort knowing that C.R.A.A. was there. Sort of like that little bulge in your back pocket which reassures you that your wallet is still safe. When I learned of all the difficulties the Association was going through, I started looking around for someone or something to blame. And the only person I could point a finger to was me.

The past executive was struggling. Our president, Simon Backley had to step down for personal reasons. Simon's problem became C.R.A.A.'s problem, and when push came to shove, no one was there to fill the void. Simon did an awful lot of work for C.R.A.A., perhaps too much so. The club has grown from a custodian type relationship with the River, to an active voice which we hope will shape the way we will fish in the future. As with all transformations, you either change with them, or you get left behind.

We are currently running the organization with an ad hoc executive structure. Ron Turalinski, past president of C.R.A.A. has come forward to fill the top chair, until a general meeting and subsequent elections can be held. Mark Tarnawczyk sits in as vice president along with Phil Weir who is acting financial officer. Jürgen Richter has volunteered to

take over membership responsibilities. Me, I am there to rattle a few chains and chair the meetings we've been having on the second Wednesday of every month at Hookers. All those titles, like Director of River Habitat, Director of Fish Culture and Facilitator of Funky Fishing, have been dropped like an old gum wrapper.

All the news is not bad news. We've had more interest in C.R.A.A. in the last few months than any other time since the inception of the club. We are financial sound, and expect to add the coffers by running some promotions which you have probably heard of by now.

By the time you read this, we hopefully will have completed a successful promotion of the Secret Strategies seminar, which was put on by Canadian Sportfishing. By helping to promote ticket sales and by lending a hand at the show, C.R.A.A. will receive 10% of the proceeds. When you consider that these shows attract thousands of anglers and onlookers alike, that amounts to a healthy haul by C.R.A.A. We also benefit by promoting C.R.A.A. to the audience and hopefully attracting some new members.

I am personally excited about our involvement in the new SPRING FISHING SHOW, which comes to the International Centre February 19, 20, 21. You might remember Dave Kraisosky as the former host of the OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN television show. Well Dave is now involved with ONTARIO OUT OF DOORS and is charged with, among other things, producing this first ever Spring Show. Dave has been involved in our meetings and has generously provided C.R.A.A. with a booth at the show. We will be promoting the mandate of the Association by

*Continued on page 7*



## Credit River Anglers Association LIGHT LINES

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Contributions are welcome from  
members and non-members alike.

Send your articles, comments and suggestions to:

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Jürgen Richter

Our strength is our membership, and we need your support to remain strong. If you have not renewed, please reconsider. The executive can "run" the club, but it is *you*, the member, who makes it all work.

The recent period of changes in the club had left the membership process on the back burner until Jürgen Richter volunteered to take over this responsibility. Thanks to Simon Backley, our member lists were computerized last year and the updating was relatively quick. We currently have 197 members on our mailing list. An older list has another 96 members who had not renewed as of January of '92. Returned mailings were received from about 20 active members who had moved since the last mailing and have not sent us a change of address.

Renewals are still only \$20 for Full Membership. **Extra Bonus** – Renew before April 30 and extend your membership until June 30, 1994!

If you are a member and have not received any mailings, please contact Jürgen Richter by Hotline with your new mailing info or send your particulars to the CRAA address in the box above. Members who are owed hats or pins should contact Jürgen for more details.

## TEXACO PIER UPDATE

### Mark Tarnawczyk

After being informed by C.R.A.A. member Oly Hajny of the situation with the closing of the Texaco Pier to anglers about year ago, Oly had asked C.R.A.A. to represent anglers who were upset with the closing. A petition was launched at UNCLE'S ANGLING and was signed by hundreds of concerned people. Several meetings took place between the City of Mississauga and Texaco. The City itself responded positively to the idea of the pier reopening with help from CRAA in removing garbage and instilling in users of the pier a more responsible attitude. In the end, Texaco lawyers pointed out the fact that the pier is private property and liability cannot be assumed. The constant negligence and abuse by the few slobos who ruined it for everyone else will no longer be tolerated.

It was a long battle, but worth the effort. The message to all members is that if you do have a concern, please voice it. The executive is best reached via the new and improved HOTLINE at 567-6656. In the future, CRAA will assume a larger role as a lobby group fighting for issues which affect the Credit River and its environs. LET US KNOW WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU!

## BOULDER PLACEMENT

### Bob Morris, Biologist Credit Valley Conservation Authority

Last spring, a major flood eroded the east bank of the ice dam structure in Erindale Park and subsequently deposited materials in a side channel downstream. The C.V.C.A. had the bank and the side channel reinstated to original conditions.

In keeping with the net loss policy of fisheries habitat for any instream works, it was decided to place 7 boulders between the ice dam and Dundas Street. This adds to the dozen or more boulders placed previously upstream which C.R.A.A. had been involved with in 1991.

Monitoring to date has shown this technique to be successful in providing resting areas for migrating salmonids and year microhabitats for resident species. As opportunities arise, C.R.A.A. expects that more boulders will be placed throughout Erindale Park.



## HIGHWAYS, BY-WAYS AND BASS – CREDIT RIVER SMALLMOUTH

John Medeiros

Ontario's Credit River, which runs through the heart of this country's fastest growing metropolitan area, is the perfect picture of diversity. Lying on the outskirts of the City of Toronto, the Credit has become well known for its tremendous runs of spring Steelhead and fall Chinook Salmon. The headwaters of the river also support a wild brook trout population, along with native rainbows and brown trout. What more can an angler ask from such an urban fishery... well how about Smallmouth Bass?

Jon Bisset, Biologist for Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (M.N.R.), says warm water species like the Smallmouth have a home in the Credit River and is in the process of planning a habitat extension program. "This not the first time the Ministry has done this type of work on warm water species, but it is unique in that it's the first for a river known primarily for it's salmonid population." Bisset is referring to an electro shocking program which was initiated this summer for Smallmouth Bass, and hopes he will eventually see large numbers of these fish moved throughout the watershed.

The Credit, which flows into Lake Ontario, has always held transient populations of bass. But a series of dams built back around the turn of the century, has limited the establishment of fixed populations to small portions of the river. The presence of migratory salmonids also poses somewhat of a problem. Most of the dams have been removed to provide free and easy access from the lake, except one – the Reid Dam in the village of Streetsville, which now serves as a barrier, for the most part, in limiting the range of fall spawning Chinook Salmon. Spring Rainbows are lifted over the dam by means of a mechanical fish ladder and are allowed to make their way upstream to spawn naturally.

Bob Morris, Biologist for the Credit River Conservation Authority (C.V.C.A.) is just tickled at the thought of moving large numbers of bass over the Reid Dam. "It will provide a season long fishery throughout the entire watershed. Especially in the lower reaches where you presently have a spring season for Steelhead, a fall fishery for salmon and

nothing else throughout the summer." Speaking about the ambitious nature of the bass transfer, Morris states that, "we need at least 1,000 mature fish above the dam so the bass can have as great a chance as any in finding each other for the spring spawn."

Local fishing clubs like the Credit River Anglers Association have volunteered time and more than just a little sweat equity to the program. Club members along with M.N.R. and C.V.C.A. staff have already tagged and released a significant number of Smallmouth into the target areas of the river. All the participants in the program have been pleasantly surprised at the numbers and size of the captured fish. Three and four pound Smallmouth Bass have raised an eyebrow or two here on this river where a 25 pound Chinook won't even get you a second glance.

Presently, anglers on the Credit River are still dialled into perhaps, what one might call the glory species. And there is no doubt that past efforts to provide top rung salmon and trout fishing have paid off. Even more recently, the Atlantic salmon re-stocking program has turned up the first Atlantic in the Credit River in well over one hundred years. Some may wonder what effect the bass may have on the overall recreational potential of the river.

But Morris summed it up best by saying: "Here we have a river that is criss-crossed by highways and by-ways, bridges and is blocked by dams. But still there are wild brookies, one of Ontario's largest runs of steelhead, and, the record Chinook came from this river. Just think of what a first class smallmouth fishery will do for this watershed." Indeed, the Credit River is one of the finest urban fisheries in the Province, and may one day become the best in the country. Hell, why stop there... perhaps the finest in North America!

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# ATLANTIC SALMON UPDATE

**Mark Tarnawczyk**

The Ministry of Natural Resources approached CRAA in early September regarding a scientific project to collect Atlantic Salmon for spawning purposes. However, this was not your usual egg stripping project. Atlantics would be caught with rod and reel by a group of anglers with special "Scientific Angling Permits." About a dozen permits were issued to anglers who had a working relationship with the MNR – anglers who had assisted the MNR with previous projects. Five permits were issued to CRAA members who were well trusted by the MNR.

The anglers were to fish in teams of two at all times on weekdays only. Waters from the mouth to Streetsville Dam were open for this project. If an Atlantic was landed, one team member would remain with the fish, the other would go and make a phone call for a special truck equipped with a holding tank. The fish would then be transported and kept ALIVE in hopes of future spawning.

Many Atlantics were reported hooked, especially in late September, but few were actually landed. They truly are powerful fish. One afternoon I tied into one fish that approached twenty pounds. It made an initial run of some fifty yards downstream, spiced up with a half dozen airborne cartwheels, before snapping my six pound tippet.

Given the high water, and abnormally cool water temperatures of the 'summer of '92', I believe many of the Atlantics ran the river early and got up and over the dam during high water periods. There were redds sighted as well as pairs of fish attempting to spawn in areas upriver. Atlantic Salmon re-introduction is working, especially with the sweat equity demonstrated by some MNR personnel. Many thanks to Troy Storms who was on call 24 hours a day, and responsible for the truck and holding tank. Jon Bisset, Ian Buchanan and Mark Heaton who put in many hours of their own time out of pure love for this species and to ensure success for this project. A final thanks to all permit holders on the Credit and Wilmot Creek for their efforts at re-introducing the "King of All Gamefish."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

As most of you know, CRAA has been in a state of transition as of late. A major restructuring and revamping of the Club has been going on for some time now. In the interim, many events that were scheduled have either been cancelled, or have gone without notice to the general membership. THAT HAS NOW CHANGED!

Every attempt will be made to let the membership know about every event, not just those for which CRAA needs volunteers. Regular meetings are open to all who wish to attend. A standing date and place has been set – please accept this as your invitation to attend.

**Regular Monthly CRAA Meetings  
are held on the second Wednesday  
of every month at 5:30 pm at:**

**Hookers Fisherman's Headquarters  
137 Queen Street South in Streetsville  
Telephone: 858-FISH**

**Please call the HOTLINE at 567-6656  
if you plan to attend on a regular basis.**

### SPRING FISHING SHOW

*Toronto International Centre, February 19, 20, 21.*

This is a new show for this year. CRAA will be in attendance and will be hosting a booth at the Show, as well as doing some conservation notes on stage. CRAA will also be involved in the KIDS FISHING program, sponsored by ONTARIO OUT OF DOORS magazine and will be hosted by such notables as John Kerr and John Power.

### C.V.C.A.

#### PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP MEETING

*CVCA offices 1255 Derry Road West, Meadowvale.  
Tuesday, February 23, at 7:00 pm*

This an opportunity for CRAA to focus its energy on specific programs and policies which will develop over the next few years. CVCA will address areas in which they can assist us in developing our mandate for the future of fishing on the Credit River.

### CRAA CONSERVATION RAFFLE

*Tickets will be on sale until February 21, 1993*

Your chance to cash in on over \$1,000 in prizes including: CHARTERS, CUSTOM TIED FLOAT ROD, FLOAT REEL, and many other prizes. Tickets



## UPCOMING EVENTS continued

will be available at most retailers and will also be up for sale at the SPRING FISHING SHOW. Call the Hotline for details.

### 1993 FLY FISHING SYMPOSIUM, SPONSORED BY THE IZAAK WALTON FLY FISHERMAN'S CLUB

*The Toronto International Airport Hilton Hotel  
April 3 - 4, 1993*

Fly fishing seminar by notable celebrities such as Joe Humphries and Dave Witlock as well as our own Jon Bissett and Ian Buchanan. For more information see the advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter.

### SPRING RAINBOW TOURNAMENT

*Scheduled for April 18.*

Watch for more information in John Medeiros' column in the Mississauga News, call the Hotline, or check the bulletin board in Erindale Park. More information will be available soon.

### CRAA GENERAL MEETING

Date and place to be set. Tentatively scheduled for the month of June. Watch for updates on the bulletin board at Erindale Park or call the Hotline.

## FALL SALMON ROUND-UP

A rather disappointing turn out during the second annual Fall Salmon tournament has the current CRAA executive scratching their heads wondering if these events are worth staging in the future. Despite rather good weather, and plenty of fish in the swim only 40 anglers in total turned out and participated in this annual event. The winners are listed below.

Because of the manpower needed to run these types of events, we are going to need a heck of a lot more participants before we run another salmon tourney. Maybe the fall salmon thing doesn't cut it with the average angler on the river these days. If you have any comments on how we can improve the tournament, or if we should continue this particular event please call the Hotline and let us know.

- 1st Place** Nick Lazor 30 lbs.  
**2nd Place** Gerald MacDonald 28 lbs.  
**3rd Place** Jeff McKay 26 lbs.

*Pictured at right: Winners with their prize Chinooks.  
L to R - Nick Lazor, Gerald MacDonald, Jeff McKay.*

## CRAA MAKES HEADLINES

In the current issue of ONTARIO OUT OF DOORS magazine, Associate Editor John Kerr's article "Ontario's No-Show Atlantics", discusses the present and future plans for the Atlantic Salmon program. In compiling the material for this piece Kerr interviewed some of the key players in the game. Included in the article are quotes from Bob Morris, C.V.C.A. Biologist, Jon Bissett and Les Stanfield of the M.N.R., Dave Gibson O.F.A.H. Biologist, Mississauga News columnist and Light Lines Editor, and the unofficial spokesman for CRAA, John Medeiros.

"On the Credit, dams still block migratory fish from reaching the spawning areas. This is why steelhead and salmon populations there are sustained by intensive stocking. If, however, rainbows and Atlantics could be given access to the river above the Papermill Dam at Georgetown (only a few have been), natural reproduction could skyrocket, says John Medeiros of the Credit River Anglers Association. He feels the Credit could sustain one of the best wild steelhead populations of all the Lake Ontario streams, perhaps even surpassing the famous Ganaraska River, at Port Hope... The Credit River Anglers Association, which was only formed in 1988, has been involved since then through surveying anglers for Atlantic catches or sightings. A club upwelling box for Atlantics sits empty because the MNR hasn't supplied eggs, says John Medeiros. Both Gibson and Medeiros point out their organizations support trying to re-establish Atlantics, but have concerns about the present programs direction."

*P.S. If you're still not tired of seeing Mark Tarnawczyk's picture of that big Atlantic he caught, it's plastered all over page 52 in this issue. Pick one up at the Spring Fishing Show!*





## REID MILL FISHWAY 1992 SPRING LIFT

**Ron Turalinski**

Last year's rainbow lift at the Reid Mill dam in Streetsville was a somewhat frustrating effort for all involved. Fortunately, for the fish that is, the spring was a wet one and with that comes plenty of high water. Rainbows made it over the dam in record numbers this past year.

As far as the fishway itself is concerned, CRAA made no less than four attempts to operate the lift. The following is a brief summary of events which centred around our spring rainbow project:

Two visits to the fishway resulted in the removal large amounts of debris:

- 1/2 sheet of plywood
- 3 car tires
- 20 to 30 large sections of trees
- part of a boat
- car & truck parts (fenders)
- oil drum
- and a mountain of grass and other floating vegetation

The actual fishway cage was filled with approximately five tons of sand and gravel.

Equipment failures were another item which plagued the project:

- Generator failure
- Electric winch; the gears were sheared
- Rental winch broke down
- 1 shovel broke
- 1 pry bar broke

If you think the MNR budget cuts don't affect you, then think again! Funding restriction resulted in:

- Truck shortage for delivery of equipment
- No transportation for personnel
- Slow (if non-existent) repairs

As mentioned earlier, the weather played a key roll in this season's lift project. The record rainfall not only hampered operations, but at one point completely covered the entire fishway! In one afternoon I counted over 40 rainbows clear the dam. My personal estimate is that between 3,000 and 6,000 fish made their way upstream compared to previous years where estimates ranged between 2,000 and 3,000 fish.

I would like to thank Brian Michie for a super job this past spring. Not only did his family get involved, but he spent two weekends on the fishway, loaned the use of his truck to pick up equipment, as well as doing a fine job in recruiting volunteers. CRAA members thank you.

The 1993 Spring Rainbow Lift will take place in early April. We have set aside the dates of April 5th to April 20th to ensure a successful operation. If you would like to get involved (and get wet) please call the Hotline and leave your name and number. We can never have too many volunteers.

## SPONSOR THANKS

This column acknowledges all the individuals and companies who have supported CRAA with both product and financial donations. Without the support of these people, CRAA would never be able to achieve its goals. If we missed anyone, please let us know so we can update our records. Again, thanks to everyone out there... you know who you are:

**Midnight Type and Graphics, Uncle's Angling Excellence, John Kordan - J.K. Custom Flies, KTL Canada Ltd., Tuxedo Tackle, Steelhead Specialties, The Credit Valley Conservation Authority, The Mississauga News, Skipper Peter Varga - Guess What Charters, Canadian Sport-fishing Communication Network, Dave Kraiosky, Ontario Out Of Doors Magazine, and Autographx Sign Company.**

A special round of thanks goes to Grant Browning proprietor of **Hookers Fisherman's Headquarters** in Streetsville who has been kind enough to allow CRAA the use of his premises for our monthly club meetings. Grant was also instrumental in rounding up many of the prizes donated for our spring Conservation Raffle, refreshments for our meetings, not to mention his own personal donation. Thanks, Grant & Lloyd!

A personal thanks from John Medeiros goes to Paul Pearson, president of **Generator/Power Equipment Company**. Most of you don't know Paul from Adam. Paul and John frequent the same watering hole, and when John mentioned the problems we had last year with the generator failure at the fishway, Paul gladly stepped in and donated the better part of a Honda 5.5hp/3000 watt unit that his company assembles and distributes locally. All this from a guy who doesn't fish at all, but who is obviously concerned enough about our local environment to help out out - he put his money where his heart is. Thanks again, Paul!



## THROUGH THE TURNSTILES continued

showing slides and videos of some of our events. More importantly, we will be assisting in the educational programs that Dave and his people have set up which will help inform all the youngsters out there about the value of a healthy fishery. We will also be on stage answering questions from John Power, Toronto Star columnist, who will emcee a daily Conservation update.

Besides all these nice things, C.R.A.A. will be running it's first ever Conservation Raffle with over \$1,000 in prizes which have been generously donated by our very kind and thoughtful sponsors. You can read about the details further on in this issue of *Light Lines*. So you see, we are breathing new life into this old dog.

Yet, I pause here and wonder as we head through the turnstiles, just what lies ahead for C.R.A.A. We have to deal with issue of a global nature, like access to the river above Burnhamthorpe. You will read about our stance on the Atlantic Salmon program further on in this newsletter. But my concern is really about you the general membership. We have to wrestle

with facts like: just what did you get for your membership fees last year? How can we make amends, and just how are we going to get more people involved in the day to day operation of the organization? Admittedly so, there are some questions still unanswered.

However, I once read something about Atlantic salmon fishermen, of which I am reminded of now. They seem to brag more loudly about their failures than about their few successes, not only because there are more of them but because it's believed that enduring failure builds character. But on the flip side, they also greet success as if they deserved it. So if you examine this tidbit of philosophy, you could say that living graciously with your defeats gives you the right to celebrate the occasional victory without false modesty.

I'm certain it's still not time for celebration... but my wallet is still tucked in my back pocket. I'm not pointing my finger anymore, and only you can tell me what the meaning of defeat is!

John Medeiros – Editor

## LOWER CREDIT RIVER FISHING FACTS


A wide variety of species in the Lower Credit River provides excellent sportfishing opportunities for the beginning and experienced angler alike. Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike and Catfish are year round residents of the river. Pacific and Atlantic Salmon as well as Rainbow Trout are migratory species found in the river during their spawning runs.

Two large sanctuaries have been established during the fall Salmon run. The locations of these sanctuaries are from the QEW to Dundas Street Bridge and from Burnhamthorpe Road upstream to Britannia Road from August 15 to the last Saturday in April. Erindale Park is open all year round for fishing. There is a fish ladder at the Streetsville dam that is designed to allow Atlantic Salmon and Trout to move upstream and spawn. Eggs from the Pacific Salmon are collected at Streetsville to be raised in hatcheries. This prevents competition with those species naturally reproducing above the barrier.

The Credit River Anglers Association is active in the management of the area and in educating anglers to be conservation minded fishing enthusiasts.

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