

LIGHT LINES

JULY 1994

Vol 5, No 3

C.R.A.A. WORK DAYS

By John Kendell

It has been said by some that C.R.A.A. has taken on too many work days for the summer of 1994. However, six out of the ten have already been completed, and they have all been extremely successful with a wide variety of individuals showing up to help out. The reason there are so many work days is simple – every project we do takes approximately five years to show the benefits on the ends of our rods. The longer we take to implement the projects, the longer we will have to wait to have the fish we deserve. Every job we do has a positive impact on the fishery by improving water quality. Therefore, every project means more fish for the future for everyone.

Do these projects really work?

I am aware of countless projects that have been completed by various clubs around Southern Ontario and Canada, to improve and enhance Trout and Salmon habitat. I will discuss one river in Southern Ontario that shows how great the improvements can be. Seven years ago this small river had a run of only a few hundred Steelhead. Now, after seven years of hard work, tree plantings, stream bank stabilization, cattle fencing, public awareness, and fish ladder operation the river has a run of over 5 000 Steelhead. That's a 1000% increase over a period when every other river in Southern Ontario has seen declining numbers of adult Steelhead. This river (which will remain nameless) is an excellent example of how much we can improve some Trout and Salmon rivers with these simple projects.

Why plant trees?

When CRAA members plant four to eight foot trees, they make an immediate impact on the environment. Trees provide immediate shading for small tributaries which keep summer water levels higher, and much cooler. They also slow down run-off to

prevent flooding and sustain constant water flows. In addition, they stabilize soils to prevent serious erosion along stream banks and agricultural run-off. The result is a steady water flow in the tributaries with much cooler water temperatures, and excellent coverage for the small trout. After a few years the trees we have planted will ensure that small rivers support large quantities of juvenile Trout and Salmon, which will mean a lot more fish for the future.



Stream bank stabilization and erosion protection

One of the most serious problems facing our Trout and Salmon is erosion. High water flows, poor agricultural practices, and poor construction methods often led to serious soil erosion. This soil ends up in the river, filling in your favourite hole (the Clay Banks), turning the water into chocolate milk, and the worst, burying spawning beds.

Trout and Salmon require clean gravel to have successful hatching of eggs. If silt buries eggs they suffocate and die. The result is very poor natural reproduction, and much fewer fish. Bank stabilizers prevent soil erosion in weakened areas and lead to less siltation very quickly.

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CRAA HOTLINE 567-6656

Credit River Anglers Association LIGHT LINES

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Production/Layout: Jürgen Richter

Contributors: Chris Goh, Donna McNair, John Kendell

Contributions are welcome from
members and non-members alike.

Send your articles, comments and suggestions to:

Credit River Anglers Association
169 Dundas Street East, P.O. Box 48042
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 4G8

Or call the CRAA 24-hr Hotline at 567-6656

Commercial advertising rates:
1/16 page – \$15, 1/8 page – \$30, 1/4 page – \$50
Maximum size 1/4 page.

Newsletter production: 200 copies per issue.
Printed on recycled paper.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

20 and 21

WORK IN ERINDALE PARK

- CRAA will install an information billboard at Burnhamthorpe Parking area.
- CRAA will assess and measure boulder movement from 1991 placement.
- A float fishing and fly fishing seminar will be held on the river on Saturday afternoon at the Clay Banks. Call the hotline if you plan to attend (567-6656).

SEPTEMBER

TREE PLANTING AND DEBRIS REMOVAL

A debris removal job will be carried out after the Salmon Tournament for lower Mullet Creek in Erindale Park. The river has naturally reproducing Steelhead, and we are going to remove tires and other macro human waste that disrupts the river. The Erindale Environmental Association will help.

17 and 18

SALMON TOURNAMENT

It will be two one-day events with thousands of dollars in cash and prizes. We will hold a barbecue both days as well.

OCTOBER

GENERAL MEETING

CRAA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

as of June 1, 1994

The following merchants have been generous to offer CRAA members a discount on presentation of their valid CRAA membership cards and identification:

Angling Specialties

325 Central Parkway West
Mississauga, Ontario
(905) 275-4972

10% off most regularly priced tackle and fly tying material.

The Bait Works and Sporting Goods

Highway 26
Thornbury, Ontario
(519) 599-6344

10% off most regularly priced merchandise.

Hookers Fisherman's Headquarters

137 Queen Street (Mississauga Road)
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Steelhead Specialties

5030 Main Gate Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
(905) 238-6858

10% off most regularly priced merchandise.

If the owners say an item is not discounted, then it is regular price! Do not argue – your discount is a privilege.

THE ANGLER'S CODE

A Good Angler:

- ❖ Respects private property and the rights of others.
- ❖ Knows and obeys the fishing regulations.
- ❖ Does not damage fish habitat.
- ❖ Puts safety first in the use of equipment and the enjoyment of the sport.
- ❖ Takes pride in his or her skill.
- ❖ Helps others to understand the recreation of fishing.
- ❖ Leaves the environment as he or she found it; does not litter.
- ❖ Has respect for their quarry – before and after catching it – and knows there is much more to fishing than taking their limit.

FISHING SEMINAR: August 20 @ 1 pm – Erindale Park in the Clay Bank Hole

June 11 and 12, 1994

Eight CRAA members and two CVCA volunteers met at Huttonville Creek (Highway 7 and Mississauga Road) at 9 am to begin work. There were a number of projects that Bob Morris and John Kendell had planned for the weekend.



The first job was placing over one tonne of rock in the roots of a large Oak tree to reverse the effects of erosion on it. The tree is on an angle, but the rocks CRAA placed will prevent further erosion so it should continue to grow. The whole load of rocks was placed by the members who formed a ten person chain that passed two rocks at a time. The final job is shown in below.



After a short break with refreshments we divided into two groups and began work. One group of seven

people planted over 200 trees along the banks of the creek. The other group removed a few old fences that had been washed into the river and obstructed water flow. Over 50 feet of wire fencing and over 200 feet of barbed wire was removed from the water. Now the water can flow freely and we have eliminated the danger of the fence.

The group took a relaxing lunch break at the side of the road and enjoyed free barbecued hamburgers with cold pop.

The group then got to work on two bank stabilizers in different sections of the creek. Both were ten feet long, and eighteen inches high. These two stabilizers will prevent serious bank erosion during high water, leading to a cleaner stream bottom in the future.



The next day a few members went to work on a cattle crossing. An area of 400 square feet was turned over with shovels to level the area for crossing.

The CRAA will finish the cattle crossing by hard work with stone. They have also fenced the river off from the cattle for a 2km stretch. Our work, combined with the CVCA's, will lead to a dramatic improvement in Huttonville Creek. We hope to see you out at the next work day helping to improve the Credit River fishery.

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Tel. 416-609-0804
Fax 416-609-0861

WEST

325 Central Parkway West, Unit 42
(Corner of Confederation Parkway)
Mississauga, Ont. L5B 3X9
Tel. 416-275-4972

HOOKEERS

FISHERMAN'S
HEADQUARTERS

----- Pro Staff -----

Grant Browning - Lloyd Browning

(905) 858-FISH (3474)

CRAA HOTLINE 567-6656

WHO'S WHO AT CRAA

You've heard about them, read about them and maybe even read their articles. It's also likely that you have been fishing next to these folks not knowing who they are. They are not famous (yet) but should be well known to the members of CRAA. It's the CRAA Executive and Board of Directors! Now you can put a face to the name.

PRESIDENT – JOHN KENDELL



John is in his fourth year at the University of Toronto (Erindale) doing an Honours Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management, Environmental Science and Geography. He works for the Credit Valley Conservation Authority as a summer employee.

He of course fishes psychotically, over 200 days a year. He has fished the Credit River since 1985 and enjoys fishing for all species, all over Southern Ontario, especially Steelhead. The combination of intense fishing and extensive scientific knowledge of fisheries, hydrology, biology, and environmental management keeps John working hard for CRAA. He is engaged to Paula Carrasco, but fishes so much he doesn't have time to get married.

VICE-PRESIDENT – RAY WEBB



Ray is one of the original founding members and has filled the role of secretary and director in early years. He is a member of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Trout Unlimited, and OFAH. He works at the University of Toronto (Erindale) in administration. He is

married and the author of the popular Jake North F.A.C.T. Guides for anglers.

SECRETARY – PAULA CARRASCO



Paula is a University of Toronto graduate currently doing her Masters at U of T on a part time basis. She began fishing in 1989 when she started going out with John, and now fishes too much. Her first river fish was a Chinook Salmon in the fall of 1989 from

the Credit River. Now she fishes all over the province for all species with John. Paula is an instructor at a private college in Etobicoke where she teaches English and Business Communications.

EVENTS – DERRICK HUSSEY



Derrick has been a member since 1991. Fishing for Steelhead is his fishing passion as you can tell from his other memberships in the Ontario Steelheaders, 9-Mile Steelheaders as well as Metro East Steelheaders. As our Events Coordinator, Derrick will use his expertise to make CRAA events run smoothly.

TREASURER – DONNA MCNAIR



Two of the charter members, both Derek and Donna McNair have always been very concerned with the preservation of the Credit River fishing and environment. Donna will not touch fish, does not eat fish and will give any fish the rod because it *"obviously wants it more than her."* She has been involved with the Club

because of her concern with protecting the angling industry for those that love the art. She is also dedicated to the protection of the environment which, for her, has become a priority. Donna hopes that as Treasurer she can make a difference with the Association bringing to it many years of executive involvement in other associations.

FISH REARING OFFICER – DEREK MCNAIR



Derek, now retired, has spent 45 years living in this area and has come to appreciate the value of protecting the fishing environment of the rivers in Ontario. He has spent countless hours scanning the banks looking for the **"big ones"** that always seem to get away. As

Fish Rearing Officer, he hopes to give **"back to the river"** what he has gotten out of it in pleasure.

HABITAT REHABILITATION – BOB MORRIS



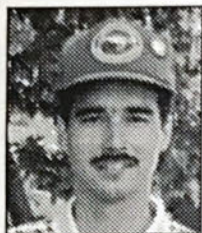
Bob has been an enthusiastic member since 1991. He is with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for 4 years now as Biologist after moving over from Fisheries Rehabilitation Biologist with the Simcoe Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Bob is also Habitat Rehabilitation Officer with Trout Unlimited and Izaak Walton Fly Fisherman's Club.

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We welcome his extensive expertise in this field. Bob can be found fishing all year 'round for just about any species of fish in the swim – from ice fishing for Ling to flipping for Bass in the summer.

MEMBERSHIP – JÜRGEN RICHTER



Jürgen has been a Charter Member since 1990. He is responsible for maintaining our computerized membership lists in addition to producing/publishing *Light Lines* as well as other printed materials for the club. He was also elected to the Board of Directors this spring.

Jürgen was bitten by the Salmon bug on his first outing on a charter trip on Lake Ontario 3 summers ago. While occasionally fishing for Smallmouth in the river, most of his summer fishing is spent honing his downrigging techniques for Salmon and Trout out on the lake. His biggest Chinook so far has been just under 30 lbs. Watch for articles on this alternative technique in an upcoming issue of *Light Lines*.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following members have also been elected to the Board of Directors at this spring's General Meeting: Chris Goh, John Medeiros, Bob Morris, Jürgen Richter, and Ron Turalinski. Watch for their articles in this and upcoming issues of *Light Lines*.

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CRAA IS ALIVE AND WELL!

By Donna McNair

In the past, this Association has been dramatically affected by several Executive changes, lack of communication with its membership, lack of committed volunteers, and poor organization of important Credit River projects which was the original founding basis of CRAA.

Your new Executive is determined to change the negative into positive with a strong commitment to the preservation and continuation of the Association with a grassroots vision for the betterment of the Credit River. We feel you must believe in the same vision because you have continued to renew your memberships, called the "Hotline" and occasionally leave messages. In turn, we will provide greater and more frequent communication through *Light Lines* and the "Hotline." We will be better organized with events so that volunteers will know well in advance of their participating roles.

In order to realize the above we need to know what you, as the membership, perceives as the important directions and involvements this Association should take. Therefore, we ask that you complete the survey included in this mailing and return it to us as soon as possible. After all, if CRAA doesn't have the input and committed support of its membership, nothing can be accomplished – thereby nullifying the reason for the creation of CRAA in the first place.

On the lighter side, CRAA held its first Fathers' Day (June 19th) BBQ event at Terra Cotta Conservation Area from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.. This event gave the members an opportunity to meet each other and to see the result of hard work on the upwelling box by some of the dedicated Executive members. It was also an opportunity to fish for the "big ones" and win a spinning rod and reel! The first catch of the day was made by Bob Morris (he thought he was going to be the only lucky angler) but some of our other members had fun hooking sunfish. Ray Webb showed us all how it was done, bringing in the "big one" to win a rod and reel combination prize.

Approximately 30 members enjoyed an afternoon of fabulous weather, fun, fishing, chatting and a great barbeque of hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings and drinks. We hope that the next BBQ will be even better!

FISHING SEMINAR: August 20 @ 1 pm – Erindale Park in the Clay Bank Hole

HOT SUMMER DAYS

Flyfishing for smallmouth bass in the Credit

by Chris Goh

It was early morning and I had the river all to myself. As I stepped towards the pool, it occurred to me why I've always felt different towards the Credit at this time of year. The wet smell of spring, the soggy banks and the crowds that I associate with steelhead in March and April were all gone. There was a gentle lonely feeling about the river being so low, clear and quiet.

I tied on a small marabou muddler to my tippet and slowly stripped enough line from my reel to cast this weighted fly upstream and across. As the fly dank slowly, I mended downstream and allowed the current to pull the fly across the river slowly. Just as the fly swung across the rocks at the tail end of the pool, the water boiled and I felt the anticipated tug on the rod. I set the hook and was fast onto the first smallmouth of the day, just as the first rays of the morning sun peeked over the treetops.

The Credit has become an excellent river for bronze backs, yet smallmouth bass fishing is still a much overlooked activity. The good news is that for many CRAA members, the river is right in our own backyard, so you can fish smallmouth everyday after work or

supper, right until dark. Or you may like to try for them early in the morning, like I do.

Flyfishing for smallmouth in summer is not too different from stream fishing for browns, except that the smallmouth is generally more cooperative than wary browns. Try casting for fish at the head of pools, where the riffle tumbles in, bringing food in the form of nymphs, larvae, minnows, etc. Check out back eddies, especially if the eddy deepens significantly off a fast chute or a large obstruction. Fallen logs, large boulders and ledges are all likely spots.

Some flies have worked better for me on the Credit than others. The marabou muddler in white, olive and brown in sizes 6 to 8 have really produced. Woolly buggers in black and olive work well, stripped slowly along the bottom, or dead drifted in smaller sizes. Poppers work well early in the morning or later in the evening.

I have only really fished smallmouth in the Credit for the last two seasons and the time I have spent there has been rewarding enough to me to want to do it more often. After all, the three and a half pounders I caught last year should be pushing four and a half this year, right?

THE LAZY ANGLER

By John Kendell

I have always wondered where these anglers get their energy from when the fish are running the river. It's always the same pattern. If the fishing is good, they're down there enjoying it, taking advantage of someone else's hard work. The reason I wonder where they get the energy to fish is they don't lift a finger to help the fishery. Some of them are even worse, sitting on their duffs complaining about the lack of fish in the river, and criticizing the work of angling clubs.

We all want to enjoy a fantastic fishery where there is plenty of fish and places to catch them. Unfortunately, only a few people really get working to make a difference to improve the fishery. Clubs like the Sydenham Sportsmen and Georgian Triangle Anglers create fantastic fisheries, while most people only take advantage of these clubs' hard work. Other clubs like Ontario Steelheaders and the Credit River Anglers Association work on rivers, doing habitat rehabilitation and operating fish ladders.

It always comes down to the same common denominator; a few anglers and people who care and want to help, and a lot of people who just want to use the fishery for their own reasons.

I know many people have to work, have family obligations, cottages, and not to mention physical ailments. However, they have the time and energy to go out fishing, run up and down the river, and complain about the lack of fish. Therefore, they should have the energy to get off their you-know-whats and help improve the fishery.

I hope to see more people getting involved in various projects that help the fishery. We all have a common goal; to have plenty of fish to catch in the rivers and lakes. Your one morning or afternoon of work helps to make a big difference.

REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT FOR THE GEORGETOWN PAPER MILL DAM

By John Kendell

The Georgetown Paper Mill Dam, located on the eastern side of Georgetown, is a historical landmark. Unfortunately, it is also a barrier to the migration of anadromous Salmonids (Steelhead, etc.). However, time has worn down this structure to the point of disrepair. This is why an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** and an **Environmental Study Report (ESR)** were done. This is in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act (Ontario), which requires a review period by all interested parties for any project that has an impact on the environment.

The Conservation Authorities of Ontario (CAO) have developed a system for following the EA Act; known as the Conservation Authorities Class Environmental Assessment. This is to ensure that all aspects of a river basin are considered in an ESR. As you can see the government likes lots of paper work.

The main concerns with the Paper Mill Dam were the following: the historical landmark, fish migration disruption, increase in water temperature below the dam (due to the head pond), and water withdrawal for the Georgetown Golf and Country Club.

As required by the EA Act, there were a number of alternatives "to" for work to be done. The six alternatives ranged from complete reconstruction of the dam to complete removal of the dam. After all of the impacts were assessed, the best alternative plan was chosen.

The alternative chosen was the re-strengthening of the structure to retain its historical value. More importantly, there is to be permanent removal of the boards and sluice gate.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE FISHERY

By the removal of the boards and sluice gate there is no obstruction to fish migration. Therefore, fish will be able to reach the prime spawning areas of the upper Credit River without any problems now! Also, since the serious problem of temperature increases will be eliminated. This will lead to an overall cooling trend for the lower Credit River; which means a higher survival rate for all cold water species.

The golf course will have a new water intake pipe extended to the river with a water pump, so their needs are met. The historical society will have the entire dam structure in place, so their needs are met.

Overall, the alternative that was chosen for the work to be done on the Georgetown Paper Mill Dam was the best choice for all concerned parties. The heritage of the dam will be protected, the fishery will be drastically improved, and the golf course will have no change in water withdrawal.

CRAA SPONSOR THANKS

by John Kendell

ONTARIO OUT OF DOORS

– DAVE KRAISOSKY

The Ontario Out Of Doors Magazine runs the Spring Fishing Show every year at the International Centre in Mississauga. The show attracts tens of thousands of anglers to see hundreds of displays and tackle shops. Since the show began two years ago, they provided CRAA with a FREE booth at the show. This gives CRAA an excellent chance to attract new members and educate the public.

SILVER CREEK AQUACULTURE

– LOU MAIERON

Lou was able to deliver close to 100 1 to 4 lb trout to Terra Cotta Conservation Area for us on short notice, and for a good price. Club members enjoyed fishing for them, and Ray Webb caught the big one, close to 20 inches.

HOOKERS FISHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS

– GRANT & LLOYD BROWNING

Hookers is a tackle shop in Streetsville that served as headquarters for CRAA in 1993. They have provided CRAA with many good deals in the past, as well as public awareness of the club. They also provide CRAA members in good standing with a 10% discount.

CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

– COUNCILLOR DAVID J. CULHAM

Councillor Culham planned a tree planting day in Erindale Park with CRAA on May 28, 1994. He has planned other tree plantings in the past with the club, and is active in the preservation of the Credit River Valley. CRAA hopes to expand the tree plantings next year to various sections along the Culham Trail.

CRAA MEMBERS... MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

Thanks go out to the following members and volunteers. Without their efforts our projects would not happen.

UPWELLING BOX CLEAN-UP

April 20 – Chris Goh, Caroline Goh, Mark Goh, Darryl Goh, John Kendell

UPWELLING BOX MONITORING

May 1 to June 30 – Derek McNair, John Kendell, Derrick Hussey

TREE PLANTING

May 28 – John Kendell, Paula Carrasco, Sylvia Guartner, Derrick Hussey, Keith Burrows, Mississauga Councillor David J. Culham



WORK DAY

June 11, 12 – John Kendell, Derek McNair, Steve Waud, Derrick Hussey, Aaron Bodian, Ray Webb, Bob Morris, Joel Sotomayer



PLANNING

John Kendell, Donna McNair, Jürgen Richter, Bob Morris, Paula Carrasco, Ray Webb, Derek McNair, Derrick Hussey, Chris Goh, Grant Davidson

STREETSVILLE DAM STEELHEAD LIFT SPRING – 1994

By John Kendell

1994 was a record year for the Steelhead lift at the Streetsville Dam by the Credit River Anglers Association. Over thirty CRAA members and volunteers worked from March 30 to May 2 to lift 1001 adult Steelhead above the dam. These fish were very large with an average weight of 6.8 lbs, and more than 50 fish over the 12 lb. mark.

CRAA operates the fish ladder for the improvement of the Credit River fishery. Once fish pass the dam they have an excellent reproductive rate. The ladder is operated only with CRAA funds and equipment, with no help from the MNR. We hope that more CRAA members will come out and help lift fish next year – the more we lift, the better the fishing will become.

The fishing in Erindale Park in the spring of 1994 was slow on most days due to the high, murky water. Steelhead shot through Erindale Park very quickly leaving a lot of depressed anglers.

In early April we all thought the run was small, until April 10th. Early April was slow, but after the sun warmed the water temperature to 9° C the fish went crazy. The following week was extremely hectic, with hundreds of pounds of Steelhead being lifted every day. Many of these fish were big and fresh, leaving me to wonder where they were when I was fishing Erindale Park.

The only unfortunate trend was the low number of natural fish. In 1993, 67% of the fish we lifted were natural. Unfortunately, this year only 38% of the fish we lifted were natural. However, the future looks brighter due to all the Steelhead that CRAA has lifted.

In addition to the 1001 Steelhead we lifted, we estimated another 2500 breached the dam on their own. Steelhead were observed spawning throughout the upper Credit River especially in the Norval area.

We hope that you will all get involved next spring to improve the fishery for the future.

CRAA HOTLINE 567-6656