



LIGHT LINES

SEPTEMBER 1994

Vol 5, No 4

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The year of 1994 has by far been the most productive year CRAA has ever had. After figuring out the problems facing the club for the past few years, and eliminating them the club began its most productive year. By February, 1994 it was clear to me what the past was, and who was there to hold the bag. Ron Turalinski and Mark Tarnawczyk tried their best to keep the club alive, but their exhaustion from burn out was too much.

Fortunately by early April, 1994 a few dedicated members appeared. Through the spring I was spending 40 to 50 hours a week trying to organize everything and plan the year's work. After the most successful Steelhead lift ever at 1001 fish, a new executive fell into place. The executive contained mostly fresh blood, which was desperately needed to ensure the successful continuation of the club.

Now as fall soon approaches, I look back on what has been a very busy, and extremely successful and rewarding year. All the work that has gone into the club has been truly worth while. The record Steelhead lift was just the beginning, as we moved into a bold plan to begin major river rehabilitation projects. Executive meetings were held, and from these a strong direction was forged with the support of a dedicated few. As time has passed there have been more and more people getting involved. The club Barbecue was very successful, and the Urban Fishing Days were extremely rewarding. The hundreds of hours of volunteer work on Huttonville Creek has also shown very positive results. More recently the work in Erindale Park has been very productive. The fishing

seminar also went very well. The work done at the fish ladder by our volunteers was outstanding, and I hope it will double the number of fish we lift next spring. Hopefully we will get some Atlantic Salmon this fall at the ladder as well.

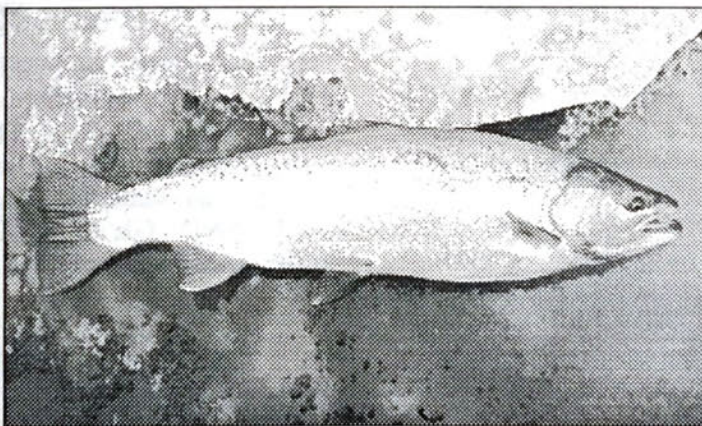
The fall of 1994 looks to be just as rewarding, with the Salmon Tournament planned for September 17 and 18. A general meeting will be held in November. The CRAA membership drive will start, and the club should see a new influx of members eager to get involved.

The job of President is very rewarding, but the commitment to do it properly means some major interruptions of lifestyle. Most weeks I average 40 hours of work directly on CRAA material, on top of

a 40 hour a week job. This seriously cuts into fishing time, but the rewards are worth it to me. Ensuring club work follows the schedule, and is planned takes a lot of time. Calling all the executive and making sure jobs have been handed out and are done. Writing and responding to letters is another big consumer

of time that must be done to keep the club going. Of course, keeping track of the government agencies such as the Ministry of Natural Resources is a full time job alone.

Fortunately I have a strong executive to pass work to that I know will get done. Donna McNair has had a lot of experience with clubs, and her skills as treasurer have been fantastic. She has cleaned the



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Salmon Tournament • Sept. 17, 18 • Erindale Park

Credit River Anglers Association LIGHT LINES

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Contributions are welcome from
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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

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files I could not take care of, and made sure the club's money is managed properly. Derek McNair has put a lot of time in now that he is retired doing leg work for the executive. His work at the fish ladder was great. Jürgen Richter has been the club membership director, and has done an incredible job for the past four years dealing with all the new people running the club. He too has had many late nights working on CRAA material. Derrick Hussey has been working on club events with some help, and Ray Webb and Bob Morris have helped as much as they could. Ray has been busy continuing his career as a writer (Jake North F.A.C.T. Guides), and Bob Morris is committed to the entire Credit River with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, CRAA, Trout Unlimited, and Izaak Walton.

There have been a few club members that have also gone out of their way to help with events: Aaron Bodian, Steve Waud, Chris Goh, Ron Turalinski, Grant Davidson, and Keith Burrows.

I thank everyone that has helped CRAA and I really hope to see everybody get much more involved.

John Kendell

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

1-30 STREETSVILLE FISH LADDER

The Streetsville fish ladder will be operated for Atlantic Salmon once a day during this period. We hope to see some adults in the ladder after the work we did on August 20 and 21. Volunteers are needed, so leave your name and phone number on the hotline to help out. (905-567-6656)

17+18 SALMON TOURNAMENTS

Saturday and Sunday from 7am to 1pm.

The entry fee is \$20 for one day (either one) or \$30 for both days. Everyone should come out and bring as many friends as possible. The more people that enter, the more money for prizes. Buy your entry ticket soon at local tackle shops, or the morning of the tournament in Erindale Park.

17+18 BARBECUE IN ERINDALE PARK

Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 2pm.

CRAA will hold a Barbecue at the end of both Salmon Tournaments.

17 MULLET CREEK CLEAN UP

Saturday, after the Tournament from 2pm to 5pm.

CRAA members and other volunteers will clean up the Mullet Creek Valley. The river has naturally reproducing Steelhead. There are tires, lumber, and other human waste that block fish migration. COME OUT AND GET INVOLVED AFTER THE TOURNAMENT. There will be draw prizes.

OCTOBER

Nothing is planned because everyone is away fishing!

NOVEMBER

The General Meeting is being planned for this month. Watch for more information in the next mailing!

CRAA HOTLINE 567-6656

PIER AND SHORE FISHING

By John Kendell

By now everyone thought all I did was fish for Steelhead with a float. Well, it's not true! Shore fishing for Salmon and Trout can be very exciting, and a nice break from trekking miles up and down muddy river banks.

September is the peak period for shore anglers to meet up with the huge runs of Chinooks heading for the river. By this time it is also common to get Browns, Steelhead, and Coho that are waiting for the Chinooks to move up river. Shore fishing is primarily done by two very different techniques. The first is still fishing, and the second is casting hardware.

STILL FISHING

Still fishing is the simplest and easiest way to hook a fish. It's also the most common method used by anglers that flock to piers like Port Credit and Bronte Harbour. Figure 1 below shows the best way to rig your line: a swivel, two feet of tippet line, a barrel weight, and a hook.

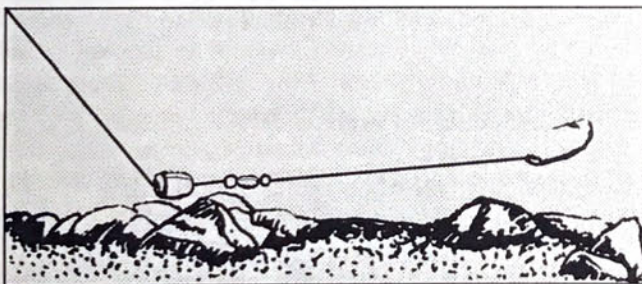


FIGURE 1

The most important part of this rig is, of course the BAIT. Off the pier I have seen everything used, from roe to hot dogs. However, there are a few top producers that you should always bring along. Roe and skein are a favourite, especially, if it's latter in the fall when Browns and Steelhead come close to shore. Roe bags should be tied in different colours with styrofoam floaters. This keeps the bait off bottom, and in front of the cruising fish. Marshmallows are the favourite of many Port Credit anglers, and they work very well. Marshmallows also serve as a snack for hungry anglers when the fish are not biting. A few secrets for marshmallows include the following: spraying them with "fish scent," garlic powder, and wrap them with roe mesh to add colour. Worms are less common among the shore crowd, but can be the secret weapon on some days.

CASTING HARDWARE

Many seasoned shore anglers switch to lures when the fish are more active, or if the fish are scattered. Large spoons such as Little Cleos and Crocodiles gives you enough weight to cast long distances, and imitate the bait fish. My experience has shown that silver/blue and silver/green are the best colour combinations. I have always had much better luck with these colours due to its more realistic flash.

LOCATIONS

When it comes to catching fish, knowing where to fish a pier can make all the difference in the world. The best plan is to target high percentage areas such as points, mud lines, structure changes, and drop offs. You should also talk to anglers that know the area. Chances are they know where the majority of fish are caught. If one area is producing a lot of fish you should consider moving to it if there is room, and hope that the location you were just at doesn't get hot.



Now you know how to do it. You have to go to a pier where there are fish. Every harbour on the Great Lakes has a pier, and fish can be caught off most of them. However, there are a few that are both very good, and very popular. Port Credit, CRAA's own stomping ground attracts thousands of anglers trying

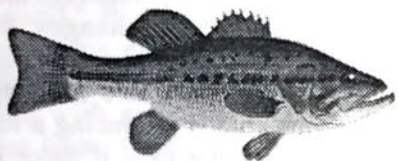
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PIER AND SHORE FISHING

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to get the tens of thousands of Salmon. Bronte and Oakville piers are also good, as well as Oshawa and Port Hope on Lake Ontario. On Georgian Bay the best pier by far is Owen Sound. The Sydenham Sportsmen have put so many Salmon and Trout into that part of the lake that fishing in September is great.

Make sure you have a few hundred yards of good quality line on your reel in the 6 lb to 10 lb range. Those big Chinooks have a lot of energy, and can easily take 250 yards of line on a run. Remember to be careful along piers. The rocks can be very slippery from algae or ice, and getting out of the water can be very difficult.



SMALLMOUTH BASS TRANSFER

By Bob Morris

On July 27 an electrofishing crew from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority were able to collect and transfer approximately 75 Smallmouth Bass from below Streetsville Dam to Churchville. This is an ongoing program that began in 1992 in cooperation with the Credit River Anglers Association in order to establish a high order predator and summer fishing opportunities where none existed between Georgetown and Streetsville. These reaches are not prime waters for self sustaining trout due to the temperature regime.

This was the first year most of the bass collected were young of the year. Although mortality rates are higher it is felt that they will not tend to migrate back downstream as the adults often do. Adult fish were marked with red spaghetti tags behind the dorsal fin. Any angler catches should be reported to the MNR or CVCA and released. One encouraging note is that John Kendell reported a pair of smallmouths spawning at Norval earlier in the summer.

CRAA SPONSOR THANKS

HOOKERS FISHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS

GRANT AND 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. They supplied CRAA with tackle and prizes for the Urban Fishing Days on July 10, 1994.

ANGLING SPECIALTIES

PAUL, TOM AND GEORGE CHENG

Angling Specialties opened a shop in Mississauga near Square One last year, and have begun to get involved in the Credit River Fisheries work with CRAA. The store provides a 10% discount on most regularly-priced merchandise to CRAA members. Earlier this summer they also provided CRAA with tackle and accessories for the Urban Fishing Days on July 10, 1994.

MISSISSAUGA PARKS AND RECREATION

DANNY BACON AND DELSIE DROVER

Danny Bacon has always gone out of his way to help CRAA in our projects in Erindale Park. More recently Delsie Drover has become involved in helping the club. Thanks to these two Parks and Recreation employees for all their help!

CRAA MEMBER THANKS

Donna and Derek McNair make up a very important part of the CRAA executive, and have been involved in the club since the very beginning. They donated close to 400 hamburgers and hot dogs that they purchased for the club for the summer barbecue and other club events.

Grant Davidson works for Kodiak Boots and has supplied CRAA with work boots, shoes, and clothing to be used as prizes at club events.

SALMON TECHNIQUES FOR THE RIVER

By John Kendell

The weather channel continued to forecast rain, teasing me as they always do. Ah! It's finally pouring. As I rig up my rod the rain intensifies, and the puddles grow. The first Salmon run will arrive in Erindale Park within 24 hours and I will be one of the first ones to greet them. I drop by the river around lunch to see it high and muddy, but it's dropping and clearing fast. A couple of hours and the first Salmon should be here. After work I fly to the river, and they're back, right on schedule. It's time for an evening of brawling Chinooks that just keep coming and coming.

This is a typical occurrence for thousands of anglers across Southern Ontario as the first rains of early September fall. The salmon have been gone from the river for ten months, but now they're back in enormous numbers.

It has been proven that salmon do not feed to fill their hunger after they enter a river, but they still take flies, lures, and other baits. Why? Salmon have lived their entire lives as wild creatures that had to react quickly, out of instinct to survive. Therefore, in the river they instinctively take flies, roe, and other baits as if they are feeding, even though they are not. The other way to catch salmon in the river is by enraging them. Lures and bright colours are best to make a salmon so angry it will take a bait without even thinking.

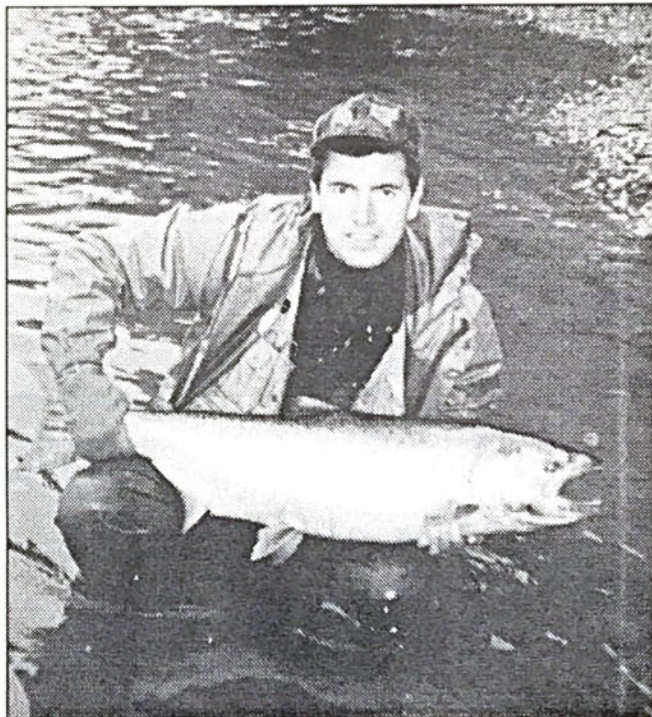
TOP SALMON BAITS

Roe, and roe imitations are the most popular baits used by anglers for the fall salmon. It's a natural choice since so many salmon are spawning, and loose eggs are common at this time of year. This is why single eggs work so well. I would suggest using small pieces of sponge in green, white, yellow, and hot pink to imitate the single salmon egg. They are cheap, durable, and work very well. Remember, the piece of sponge should be spherical, with a 1 cm diameter. Any larger and it will look unnatural and will not work!

Flies are the other popular bait used by many anglers, and I believe they even outproduce roe imitations. Woolly buggers in sizes 6 to 12 in any colour are a great choice. Other top flies include: single egg imitations, yarn flies, stone flies, and caddis flies, which are very common in the Credit River.

APPROACHING THE RIVER

The biggest mistake many anglers make is fishing in the wrong spot, the wrong way, and at the wrong time. The best way to increase your catch is to be where all the fish are. Usually, one day after a rain more fish are at Dundas, and after the second day more are at Burnhamthorpe. When the fish are running in large numbers, the best place to be is at a bottleneck in the river. This creates a jam of fish in a small place which means more fish for you. Fast, long stretches of rapids, narrow channels, and divided channels are the top bottleneck areas. By drifting through these areas you will substantially increase your catch.



After the fish have stopped running, and because the river has dropped and cleared, the pools are the place to go. The fish hold in the pools for safety and security. They often become spooky, but can still be tricked into taking the bait using the proper approach. When you enter a hole, never run in. You should sneak in very quietly, with as little splashing and noise as possible. Look for a concentration of fish in the pool, and then quietly drift for them. They are wild creatures, so anything out of the ordinary like loud noises will scare the @#\$% out of them.

Salmon Tournament • Sept. 17, 18 • Erindale Park

BIG WATER TECHNIQUE: DOWNRIGGING BASICS

By Jürgen Richter

Living so close to Lake Ontario as well as the Credit River gives me the option to fish in either locale without having to drive for hours for some fabulous Salmon and Trout action. The concept of presenting an appetizing snack to hungry fish is about the only constant here. Compared to the 13 foot noodle rods with 8lb line, the equipment used in downrigging, at first appears to be overkill. When your quarry is Salmon and Trout in the 20 to 30+ pound range, your gear can take quite a beating – my only two level-wind reels broke at the end of August, just before the great fall migration.

The rod should be at least 8' long, either fibreglass or a graphite composite with a 14 to 25lb line rating. Various brands are available and are designed as "rigger sticks." Reels come in two flavours – single action mooching reels and level-wind trolling reels. My preference is a lightweight ballbearing level-wind with multi-disk star drag and free spool lever. Other reels are available with a drag lever and even a line counter – a feature worth considering if you want to know exactly how much line you have out, or how far that 35lb King got before your line snapped. The reel should have a capacity of at least 300 yards of 20lb line so you're prepared when the trophy hits. While you may get more strikes with lighter line, you will not lose as many with heavier test. My preference is for 14 or 17lb test.

A good selection of spoons that resemble the forage fish in flash, colour and size work all season long. Popular spoons are available with different stick-on prismatic colour tapes in both painted and hammered metal finish. I've had the greatest success with both black painted as well as hammered silver spoons with combinations of blue, green, purple and orange tapes. Smaller versions work better in July than the larger ones I'm using in August and September. The bait fish they imitate have grown during the summer, so it should only follow that your lures get larger too! Another must-have is a selection of wooden or plastic bodied plugs that have erratic action and generate a lot of vibration. This draws aggressive strikes from those unpredictable late-summer and fall salmon. Their erratic movement covers a lot of water compared to spoons, and their sheer bulk makes them an appealing snack. Colours and pattern

finishes are available in almost all combinations, from a green back with black stripes and chartreuse belly to a black back with silver belly and sparkle scales all over, or even an all-white body. Judging by the ones I've found floating out on Lake Ontario, now in my tackle box, these colours seem to be most popular. Again, smaller ones should be used earlier in the season.

With a lead of about 50 feet to your lure, your line is temporarily attached to a line-release resembling a clothes peg – attached to the cannonball or the cable – and lowered to the desired depth. A counter on the downrigger itself will indicate the depth of the cannonball. When a fish strikes, your line is pulled out of the rubber pads in the release. As the rod tip pops up when a fish takes your bait and makes a run for it, you only have a few seconds to take the rod out of the rod holder and wind in any slack line. Any delay and the fish has a good chance of spitting the hook out. The motion of your boat moving forward will usually set the hook, but follow through with one good hookset, keeping your rod tip up and line tight. The drag should be set to give the fish a lot of resistance should he take a run across the lake, but not too tight where the line will snap. I learned this lesson after hooking into some monsters, unable to get the rod out of the rod holder and watching helplessly as my lure and most of the line on the reel went for a marathon swim.



A sonar device/fish finder will help you find the fish, and some units will show the thermoclines or temperature zones in the water. Some have temperature sensors at the surface, or additionally, at the cannonball – which can help pinpoint the optimal temperature range of 50-55°F. Knowing at least that there are fish below your boat at least improves your chances of catching them. I have caught fish anywhere from 10 to 45 feet down, in up to 200 feet of water.

Adjust your trolling speed according to your lure's action on the surface. You can troll in various patterns to cover the most water when finding fish or work a figure eight when you've located a good school. With a lot of other boats around, a straight line pattern works best.

CONFESSIONS OF A FEMALE STEELHEADER

By Paula Carrasco

As the summer of '94 comes to an end, I think of cosy winter nights by the fire. However, I'm dreaming because I'm married to a radical steelheader! A sigh escapes my lips as I recall the endless hours of torture – uh uh – did I say "torture," I really meant purposeful recreation. Yes, steelheading is a serious sport with a mission: "to go insanely where no angler has gone before." Unfortunately, I am a member of the clinically insane: yes, I'm a female steelheader. My girlfriends do not understand this quest to conquer the steelhead, and quite frankly I do not understand it either; however, I do know that the excitement of "the fight" is enough to give anyone "steely fever."

You probably find this article quite contradictory, and this is due to the fact that I am still coming to terms with being an angler. I remember the innocent days of shopping for clothes: now, I shop for waders and fly boxes! Now, I've learnt to use terms like "yeah, the pool around the bend is amazing" – as I hope to catch another fish out of the pool I'm currently fishing. Now, I wake up at 3:00 in the morning to head "up north" or to — (sorry, John, my radical steelhead partner, made me bleep that out). Nonetheless, there is a very positive side to steelheading. For example, I see many parts of the countryside I never would have otherwise seen. I've learned many interesting things about nature that I would have otherwise not known. Most importantly, I will never have to complain about not seeing my spouse! So, be it torture, or be it fever I'm a steelheader.

The female steelheader

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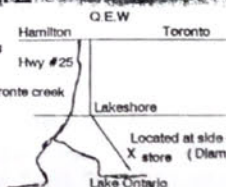
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Salmon Tournament • Sept. 17, 18 • Erindale Park

CRAA SALMON TOURNAMENT

**\$20
for one
day**

**September 17 and 18, 1994
in Erindale Park
Both Days – 7am to 1pm**

**\$30 for
both
days**

TWO 1-DAY EVENTS

FORMAT

- ◆ Catch and Keep
1 Salmon per event.
- ◆ Two 1-day events,
each one completely
separate.
- ◆ There will be a fly
fishing category on
Sunday only.
- ◆ Tournament bib to be
worn by participants
and referees with
sponsors' names and
logos on it.

ENTRY FEE

One Day: \$20.00
Both Days: \$30.00
Enter early at local
tackle shops or at
Erindale Park the day
you want to fish.

PRIZE STRUCTURE*

Based on a full field of
200 entries comprising
100 daily entries and
100 two-day entries.
40% of the entry fee will
go to CRAA projects.
60% of the entry fee will
go towards prizes.
There will be additional
prizes for winning
positions.

Note:

Any prizes not won by a
fish will be drawn for
with the unused tags.

PRIZE BREAKDOWN*

SATURDAY

Place		
1	\$500	(23.80%)
2	\$350	(16.67%)
3	\$275	(13.10%)
4	\$225	(10.70%)
5	\$200	(9.53%)
6	\$ 70	(3.30%)
7	\$ 50	(2.38%)
8	\$ 50	(2.38%)
9	\$ 40	(1.90%)
10	\$ 40	(1.90%)
11-25	\$ 20	(0.95%)

SUNDAY

Place		
1	\$500	(23.80%)
2	\$350	(16.67%)
3	\$275	(13.10%)
4	\$225	(10.70%)
5	\$200	(9.53%)
6	\$ 70	(3.30%)
7	\$ 50	(2.38%)
8	\$ 50	(2.38%)
9	\$ 40	(1.90%)
10	\$ 40	(1.90%)
11-25	\$ 20	(0.95%)

FLY FISHING

Place	
1	\$125
2	\$ 75
3	\$ 50
4	\$ 25
5	\$ 25

Cash prizes for the Fly
Fishing category are
additional to the prize
for the top 25 places.



CRAA HOTLINE 567-6656