



LIGHT LINES

FALL 1995

Vol 6, No. 4

1995, WHAT A GREAT REHAB YEAR

The 1995 year has been so successful with CRAA that I really do not know where to begin. There have been so many events and projects I will break them down into subheadings to discuss them. All CRAA members and volunteers should be extremely proud of what CRAA has accomplished!

SPRING FISHING SHOW (February 17 to 19)

This was the beginning of the work year and CRAA surprised all the other clubs and show organizers with a whopping 30 volunteers over the three day event. Volunteers received free access to the show and in return worked anywhere from four hours to all three days. CRAA signed up eight new members at the show and sold an incredible \$1300 in raffle tickets. With our new booth display we really attracted a lot of attention. CRAA volunteers taught kids how to tie flies, catch fish in the trout pond, fish identification, coloring and more! We expect 1996 to be even better.

FISH LADDER (March 25 to April 25)

The fish ladder was checked on a daily basis throughout March and the work began on March 25th. Although mother nature did not provide the best weather for lifting, CRAA passed more steelhead over the fish ladder than any other year. By March 31 an estimated 4 000 steelhead had passed the

ladder on their own. Over the month of April CRAA lifted and tagged almost 500 more. Over forty different volunteers helped out for an afternoon to a maximum of 17 days. We also lifted our biggest steelhead ever at a whopping 19.5 lbs. In addition to the lifting, CRAA volunteers continued to pile rocks at the dam to control water flow and improve the fish ladder.

STEELHEAD TRANSFER (April 13 to April 25)

After some arm twisting with the MNR CRAA finally gained approval for a steelhead transfer above the Norval Dam. The Norval Dam is a barrier to steelhead which prevents them from reaching the best reproducing water in the Credit River. As a result CRAA took it upon ourselves to transfer steelhead by trailer above the barrier so they may have the greatest success in reproducing. In total 239 steelhead were tagged with a red tag and released over 40 km upstream of where they were captured. Ontario Steelheaders loaned us their trailer for a few days and Dave Lizmore, the fisheries teacher at Turner-Fenton High School in Brampton loaned us his Oxygen Tank and transfer tank for all of April. **The steelhead transfer was one of the most successful projects ever undertaken by CRAA.** The effects of the transfer will be seen by 1998 as the offspring of the transferred fish return to the river as 2 lb to 5 lb steelhead.

Continued on page 4

Salmon Tournament – September 24

Credit River Anglers Association LIGHT LINES

Contributions are welcome from
members and non-members alike.

Send your articles, comments and suggestions to:

Light Lines Editor
Credit River Anglers Association
60 Dundas Street East, P.O. Box 48042
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 1W0

Or call the CRAA 24-hr Hotline

(905) 608-0169

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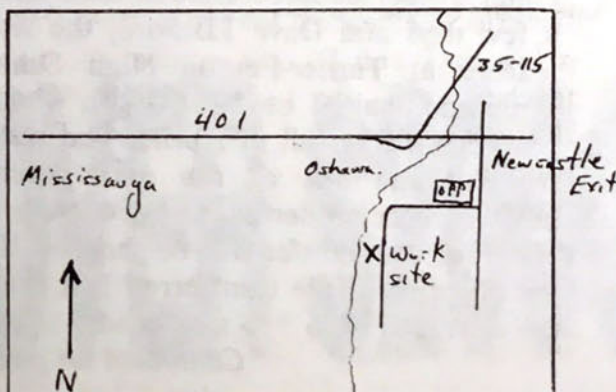
Newsletter production: 200 copies per issue
Printed on recycled paper.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 27 **WILMOT CREEK WORKDAY** (9 to 3)
CRAA will work on the lower section of Wilmot Creek with Ontario Steelheaders. The work will include constructing bank stabilizers, log jams, and vortex weirs. Bring you hip or chest waders and gloves. If you need a ride or would like to car pool call the hotline and let us know. We will have a barbeque at the site and cold pop.

MAP TO WILMOT CREEK



SEPTEMBER

2,3,4 **PORT CREDIT SALMON SHOWDOWN**

CRAA is not involved with this tournament but you may be interested in it. Entry is \$75.00 per team and prizes could reach \$11,000.00. Call for more information (905) 278-6541.

24 **6TH ANNUAL CRAA SALMON TOURNAMENT** (7 am to 2 pm)

All members should bring their friends and help support CRAA in this major fund raiser. There will be lots of fish, fun and prizes.

OVER \$2000 IN GUARANTEED PRIZES

Tickets will be available September 1st from tackle shops and at the event.

All participants must pick up a tag before fishing and wear a tournament marker to be identifiable to judges.

24 **FISHING SEMINARS** (2pm-3pm)

- How to make your own floats
- Tying the top three steelhead flies (Woolly bugger, stone fly, hairs ear)

27- Oct1 **MIRAMICHI RIVER SALMON TRIP**

This is the tentative date for the trip which will include three days fishing and accommodation, a guide for each pair of anglers and all the food you can eat at the dinner table. Our destination is the Miramichi River Lodge and the cost is approximately \$160 a day for the three days. Gas and fishing license are extra. CRAA will set up a car pool. There are only six spaces available so RSVP as soon as possible. Call the hotline to let us know. A one hundred dollar refundable deposit will be necessary by September 10, 1995. After that date any cancellations will be non-refundable. If there is not enough interest the trip will be canceled!

CRAA HOTLINE (905) 608-0169

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT'D

SEPTEMBER

15 - FISH LADDER

Oct 15

The fish ladder will be operated from mid September to mid October for Atlantic Salmon and Steelhead. The ladder will also be opened after November 1st. Daily operation will depend on , volunteers and water conditions.

OCTOBER

27-29 SALMON RIVER TRIP

This is the tentative date for the Salmon River trip to Pulaski, New York. The trip will cost about \$200.00 each.

NOVEMBER 15

1 Interim Newsletter

15 CRAA Fall General Meeting



ANGLING SPECIALTIES


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SATURDAY CAR WASH

It was a recent Sunday while working at the fish ladder with seven other CRAA volunteers that this article came to my head. We were working on improving the outflow channel from the fish ladder and removing rocks that had been thrown in by vandals. A light rain had fallen the night before and the water had a light brown tint to it. However the strange thing was all the soap suds that were covering the river below the Streetsville Dam. Aaron and Grant asked "Where the hell are all these suds coming from?". Although it is natural for water to foam slightly after passing a falls what we experienced this Sunday morning was extreme.

As I pondered the question put forth by Aaron and Grant who were feverishly lifting and piling rocks that weigh as much as them, I recalled all the people washing their cars the day before. Don't get me wrong, the river was not buried under three feet of soap suds, it was just a thin layer that had collected in the slow moving areas of the river below the fish ladder and dam.

You see, all that soap and water used to wash the cars had slowly flowed into the nearest storm sewer on the street. Then it slowly flowed towards the river. The rain that night increased the storm sewer flow and brought all this soap residue into the river quickly and left us taking a bubble bath as we worked. The point is, remember where that storm sewer is going next time you or your friends wash the car or do anything that can flow down the storm sewer on the road in front of your house. It is reasons like the soap suds that has prompted a recent program that has swept Canada by storm. It's called the 'Yellow Fish Road Marking Program'. You may have seen it in your area. A yellow fish painted on the road beside storm drains to remind people of where that sewer flows.

HUTTONVILLE CREEK TREE PLANTING (May 6)

How about an instant forest! CRAA went to work in the early morning with a group of 15 volunteers to dig up cedar trees for the afternoon planting. With four vehicles we thought there was plenty of room for the trees. However nobody expected Mike Wiedemann and I to dig up big trees, like twelve foot cedars. After following our lead everyone dug big trees which averaged five to ten feet tall. With 250 cedars dug up and loaded (squeezed) into the cars and van we headed for Huttonville Creek. We arrived to see Bob Morris and more volunteers planting some cedars we had delivered. As we unloaded our forest everyone grabbed a shovel and began the hard work. An hour later there were a few hundred cedar trees stretching for 300 m along Huttonville Creek. An hour before we started there was only a field. When we were finished there was a forest.

SILVER CREEK WORKDAY (June 10)

Eleven CRAA volunteers pulled into Cedarvale Park in Georgetown to do some river rehabilitation work in a big river. Much to our surprise Bob Morris (CVC) had a little bonus, a dozen boulders all weighing over 200 lbs each. As Bob shouted orders we all set to work and constructed a vortex weir. This will dig a large pool below the weir over time and provide excellent habitat for juvenile steelhead and Atlantic salmon. Then we repaired some bank stabilizers that had been built in earlier years and removed debris from the river. **The bonus of the day was seeing hundreds of newly hatched steelhead fry swimming in the river, which were evidence of our fish transfer!**

CRAA ANNUAL PICNIC (June 11)

Chris Goh and his family did most of the organization for the event and member Don

Atkinson donated food from Miracle Mart where he is a store manager. We set a great deal with Dave Barr for a full days fishing, all the food and pop you could eat, and fly fishing lessons all for only \$10.00 person. This would regularly cost upwards of \$50.00 a person. With over 60 CRAA members and families the event was a huge success. Everyone caught dozens of trout and enjoyed a great lunch.

URBAN FISHING DAYS (July 9)

Nine CRAA members came to help teach kids to fish in Lake Aquitaine as part of the Urban Fishing Festival put on by the MNR every year. We had over 400 kids this year even though the weather was overcast. Fortunately CRAA supplied 3 000 worms as well as hooks and weights that were generously supplied by Angling Specialties and Fisherman's Place. CRAA also operated a barbecue with a hot dog and pop for \$1.00, or a cheeseburger and pop for \$2.00. As usual we sold out of pop and food. There were lots of fish caught by all and ribbons were given out to all the lucky anglers.

FORKS OF THE CREDIT WORKDAY (July 22)

CRAA went up to help out Trout Unlimited for a workday to instal a very large rip rap bank in the TU section just north of Inglewood. Seven CRAA members joined four TU members and 3 Isaac Walton members to build the structure. By lunch we had placed over 30 tonnes of rock and installed four lunger structures. Approximately 100 m of trees was also added to the structure for additional fish habitat. This was one of CRAA's days to get involved with other clubs so more work can be completed.

CREDIT RIVER TAGGED STEELHEAD

In the spring of 1995 CRAA tagged nearly 400 steelhead that were lifted at the Streetsville Fish Ladder. 239 steelhead were tagged with a red 'floy tag' that carries the OMNR phone number and an individual tag number. The fish with the red tags were transferred upstream of the Norval Dam by trailer. An additional 138 steelhead were tagged with blue 'floy tags' and these fish were released above the Streetsville Dam.

The aim of the program was to prove that steelhead were having difficulty passing the Norval Dam. By completing spawning surveys and information from anglers who caught these tagged fish CRAA and the OMNR-Maple would have solid evidence to prove the Norval Dam problem. In addition, we would be able to gather information such as how fast fish left the river, where they preferred to hold in the river after spawning, and where they go in Lake Ontario. In future years we will hopefully lift some of the steelhead that we tagged this past spring. This will give us even more information such as growth rates, how many times the fish spawns, and an estimation of how many repeat spawners come into the Credit River.

We encourage all anglers who caught or catch a tagged steelhead to report the tag number to CRAA and please release the steelhead. The more reports we have the more we will learn from the project.

Reports began by the 24th of April, when two red tagged steelhead were caught in the Ice Breaker hole in Erindale Park. These fish were spawned out even though they had been transferred to Georgetown (Norval) only twelve days earlier. On opening day at the dam I tailed a blue tagged fish for an angler below the dam and a red tagged steelhead was also landed in that area. The following week

saw over twenty steelhead reported to CRAA and the OMNR that were caught above the Streetsville Dam. All of the fish reported were spawned out and were in great health.

A spawning survey that was done in The Georgetown Area by a CRAA member also revealed some very important information. There were 14 steelhead observed in Silver and Black Creek and all 14 had a red tag. In the Georgetown area there were six steelhead observed and four had red tags. The most interesting sighting of all was a pair of steelhead that were seen spawning in the 'meadow' only 1 km downstream of the cataract in Belfountain. One of the fish in the 'meadow' had a red tag! Steelhead are not aloud up the river this far, however the OMNR had turned off the electro barrier (located in Inglewood) in late April, thus allowing the steelhead to reach the meadow. This information is extremely important, showing us that 17 out of twenty steelhead seen above the Norval Dam had a red tag. Therefore there is a serious fish obstruction problem with the Norval Dam. CRAA plans to address this problem over the next year to attempt to make positive changes.

In a final note of where the Credit River steelhead have disappeared to in Lake Ontario there have been two reports to date. In early July there was one steelhead caught off Etobicoke in 400 feet of water (20 km off shore). Also in early July there was a Credit River steelhead caught off of Rochester New York! Our fish do get around don't they.

Please report any information regarding tagged fish you have caught or have seen caught to the CRAA hotline at (905) 608-0169.

WAIT! DON'T WADE

By John Kendell

I enjoy fishing Erindale Park and all the other rivers in Southern Ontario for trout and salmon. Unfortunately, for me, so does everyone else. I don't mind the crowds that much, I just mind the people who spook the fish. By spooking the fish I mean anglers that wade to the top of their chest waders. They might as well go swimming with the fish (if someone doesn't throw them in).

Why do people believe they must wade into the river to catch fish. It never fails, the Clay Banks has anglers standing in the middle of the pool. The poor fish are squeezed into a tiny corridor and are scared #\$\$%&*\$\$. When the fish are that scared we might as well go home.

I am not saying never wade! Just do it carefully. In a river like the Credit I try not to wade past my knees. However on a river like the Nottawasaga it is often required to wade deeper just so you can cast to the pools.

Let your wading match the size of the river you are fishing.

Remember fish can see out of the water better than you can see in. Therefore don't walk to the edge of a pool and look in the water and expose yourself. Most times the fish will get out of there, or develop lock jaw with this visible approach. On large rivers try to keep a low profile along the river and on small creeks like Wilmot if the fish are spooky try crawling along the river bank. It's not easy, but if the fish do not suspect your presence than they will be more willing to take your bait.

The point is to approach every piece of water with stealth, no matter how big it is. Don't splash around while walking, don't wade unless you must (and encourage others to stay out of the water too), and please don't walk to the edge of a high bank on a pool. Fish are wild creatures, anything out of the ordinary will spook them.

VANDALISM STRIKES AGAIN

Another summer is quickly passing us by but not without the damage and destruction of our fish ladder vandals. This year has proven to be as bad as last year, with damage to the fence, the top of the ladder, and our equipment. The step ladder was stolen, the hooks required to lift boards that control water flow were stolen, and the large beams that control the water flow (I beams) which weigh over 150 lbs were thrown into the river and the fish ladder. Further, trees and other debris as well as large rocks and boulders were thrown into the ladder.

Other CRAA property that has been damaged is the information signs in Erindale Park.

Idiots have been throwing rocks at the plexiglass and have destroyed the one side of the Erindale sign. This will cost CRAA upwards of \$300.00 to repair.

Although police reports have been made there have been no arrests. We encourage all members to keep a sharp eye out on all property you like to fish to prevent vandalism. It is this type of vandalism to private property that gets rivers closed. Vandalism to the milling properties and their dams was the main reason for the creation of the fish sanctuary between Burnhamthorpe and Streetsville.

Vandalism hurts us all in many ways!

BRONTE STEELHEAD IN TROUBLE

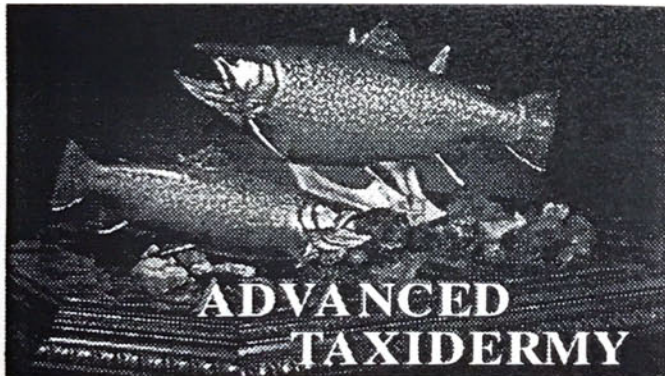
Due to MNR policy changes requested by Izaak Walton Fly Fishers (IWFF) the steelhead population in Bronte Creek is going to shrink by a whopping 70% over the next four years! Why? IWFF put in a request to the MNR to make the upper Bronte Creek a resident trout fishery like the Forks of the Credit River. To do this IWFF made structural changes to the dam in Lowville so steelhead cannot pass the dam. Unfortunately over half of Bronte River steelhead are born above this dam. The loss of spawning and juvenile habitat means the steelhead population will crash in Bronte Creek.

What can you do! Write a letter to the MNR biologist in charge of Bronte Creek. Tell him

what you think of this change and let them know how disappointed you are that you were never informed of this change until now. The MNR is required to ask all stake holders for an opinion and they did not ask CRAA at all! I found out about this change only two weeks ago from MNR biologist Jim Bowlby.

Mail your letters to the following:

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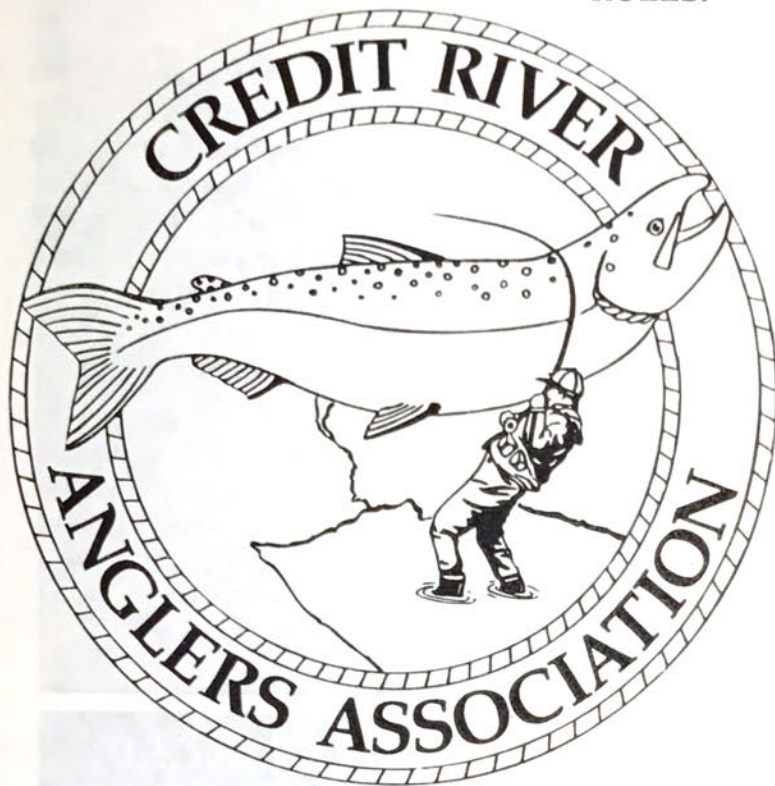
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All CRAA members with valid membership card are now eligible for a 25% discount on all mounts done by ADVANCED TAXIDERM.

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CRAA HOTLINE (905) 608-0169

RULES:**Catch, Keep and tag 1 Chinook salmon only!**

6TH ANNUAL SALMON TOURNAMENT

SPONSORED BY:**ST. CROIX****ANGLING SPECIALTIES****THE BAIT WORKS****KODIAK****DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 1995****TIME: 7 am to 2 pm****ENTRY: \$20.00 CRAA members
\$25.00 non members****Enter at local tackle shops or at
the event!**

TOP 10 PRIZES

OVER \$2000 IN PRIZES

CRAA HOTLINE (905) 608-0169