

THE THAMES RIVER ANGLER

Volume 1, 1996

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Many of us, with the dawning of a new year, reacquaint ourselves with all of the failed or delayed resolutions of years past. Some of these formerly unresolved resolutions manifest themselves daily in obvious forms, such as the astounding amount of sunlight that you're able to block out or the sight of peeling paint on the window sills giving way to bare, weathered wood. However, well meaning resolutions such as smiling more, managing personal time more efficiently or signalling for lane changes are far harder to quantify in terms of success. I would like to venture a suggestion for 1996. Choose an aspect(s) of the TRAA that interests you, approach the appropriate committee chairperson, a director or any of the executives and make your interest known. The rest is a "no-brainer"! You will be asked for your input, opinions, and as much time as you care to invest. You will find the whole process far easier than counting calories and is, by far, more entertaining when compared to watching the first coat of paint dry on your window sills. So in this year, the 10th Anniversary of the TRAA, have a great time keeping a resolution of which you'll be proud to see the results.

Speaking of getting involved, thanks to Randy Bailey for this month's edition of "Soapbox".

THE BUSINESS END OF THE TRAA

The January general meeting took place out at Fanshawe Park in the administration building of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. UTRCA staff members Rick Goldt, Alex Shivas, Chris Hackey and Jeff Brick gave an informative history of the Conservation Authorities and how they intend to continue their efforts toward a healthy environment despite the recent financial constraints imposed by on-going government budget cuts. They outlined how organizations such as the TRAA can assist by urging their members to write letters to applicable municipal officials in support of the efforts of the UTRCA. A list of these officials as well as Municipal Council meetings that will feature presentations regarding the future of conservation are available from any of your TRAA executives.

The next meeting will be on February 14, 1996 which, as usual, is the second Wednesday of the month. We meet at the Canadian Corps Association building on Dundas Street East, beside the Kellogg's plant. Try to be there before the 8:00 p.m. start so that you'll miss nothing.

The March meeting will feature the election of the TRAA executive. The format of the election has changed slightly from past years in that 11 directors will be elected. From within this body of 11 elected directors, the positions of President, Vice President, Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer will be selected. Because this selection process will require an additional meeting of the elected directors, the general membership will be informed of the selections via a newsletter, the Hotline, and/or an announcement at the April 10, 1996 general meeting. The Committee Chairpersons and the other volunteer positions will be solicited by the directors and presented in the same manner as the executive. The current directors are seeking your nominations for one or more of the 11 people that will be elected as directors in March. Now don't be shy; heck, you can even nominate yourself! Call any of the following directors with your nomination. You can also just tell them at the February general meeting.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Fred Smithers | 455-2475 |
| Paul Masur | 471-9592 |
| Bud Bryant | 451-4294 |

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Les Howey | 453-5823 |
| Tony Vaessen | 641-6015 |
| Paul Noble | 659-1383 |

The April 10, 1996 general meeting will feature a spokesperson from the Department of Fisheries. The format will be that of a forum, allowing plenty of leeway for questions and discussion. This meeting should be a lively one so don't miss it!

You may or may not have noticed a couple of changes in the TRAA. Ed Emery was offered and has assumed the positions of Vice President and Warm Water Committee Chairperson at least until the March general elections. Jim Romphf, who previously held these positions, regretfully had to make a difficult decision in favour of a demanding career. Paul Masur will be managing the burgeoning archives as the TRAA's librarian. Yes we have books and stuff that you can sign out and we're always on the lookout for any applicable donations of books, videos, documents, etc. Paul's telephone number is above.

The start of a new year also rings in the call for your membership dues. Now stop griping, it's still the best deal in town at \$15.00 for a single and \$20.00 for a family membership. You can mail it to the address at the bottom of this page (no cash in the mail please). You can also call Archie Graham at 681-2715 or Bud Bryant at 451-4294 if you would like to make other arrangements.

COMMITTEE CASTS

TROUT

This fall's batch of brown trout fry are now free of their egg trays and are swimming about in the trough section of the hatchery. There was a normal amount of egg mortality due to minor fungus growth, but the Trout Committee seems to have this procedure down to an art now. The release of these young brown trout is slated for some time in April, 1996. One of the possible release locations being discussed is Hall's Creek near Ingersoll where the UTRCA and other groups have done some rehabilitation work.

Plans are in place for the capture and stripping of native rainbow trout from Komoka Creek during the first week of March, 1996. Anyone who fishes for migratory rainbows knows that this date is a "ballpark" estimate and could change to a day by day situation.

Work on the hatchery facility took place in October. The enclosure was stained and some trees that suffered in the "big blow" that happened this past fall were removed because of their proximity to the enclosure and the n spring water supply pipe. Some of the stairs were also improved.

Paul Masur, the current Trout Committee Chairperson will be gradually retiring from that position over the next month or so. Paul believes that this change should occur in concert with the changeover in the hatchery. As usual Paul seems to have a handle on what is best for the trout. Paul hopes to become involved with other aspects of the TRAA and we are sure that the TRAA will continue to benefit from his efforts.

However, for now, Paul Masur is still the Trout Committee Chairperson and can be reached at 471-9592.

WARMWATER

Ed Emery, as you may have read in the Business End of this newsletter has graciously taken over the helm of the Warmwater Committee from Jim Romphf (who obviously believes that earning a living and feeding his family is more important; go figure - Ed.).

One of Ed's top priorities will be to get commitments from other area clubs and organizations in regard to the walleye hatchery. It is believed that the TRAA will be unable to handle all of the time, money and personnel needed to execute this project properly.

Another of Ed's primary goals is increase the interest in this committee. If you would like to help him out, call him at 673-1513.

REHABILITATION

The cornfield bend of Komoka Creek had been debrushed, staked out and was fully prepared for the heavy equipment to move in. However, one thing that can't be planned is the weather. It rained so much that the backhoe was unable to access to the work site without becoming mired in mud. Root wads are made and ready for installation, grass seed has been purchased and all else is ready for when work resumes.

Randy Bailey, who heads up this Committee, believes that the entire month of June, 1996 will be most suitable to return to the rehab' site. There may also be a couple of weekends in March slated for working on the stream but that will depend on the romantic intentions of Mr. and Mrs. Rainbow Trout. Projects planned for this period are to finish the cornfield bend, alterations down to the culvert (that we restored) near the hatchery and the creation of riffles, pools and faster, deeper sections.

Some members have been doing extra work over and above that of the scheduled work parties. Most of their efforts have focused on approximately 300 metres of Komoka Creek downstream from the hatchery. Members who have not seen this section since last year will be very impressed with the new pools, riffles and the deeper main channel. Because of the success of these smaller groups, Randy is considering expanding these types of activities. This may take the form of 2 or 3 members adopting a certain stretch of the stream for rehabilitation and maintenance. Randy would like feedback in regard to this idea.

From April 29 to May 3, 1996 we will be conducting streamwalks and performing some benthic sampling for invertebrates. The results of these activities will help us decide on a plan of action for future work on Komoka Creek.

Rehabilitation is the most effective tool for restoring a damaged waterway back to a healthy aquatic environment. This Committee will endeavour to plan as far ahead as possible so that the members who are interested in becoming involved are able to include these activities in their personal schedules. Randy can be reached at 457-7972.

SOCIAL

This year of 1996 is, of course, the tenth anniversary of the TRAA. Because this is the first time that we've had to deal with this, the call has gone out for ideas on how the TRAA can celebrate this triumphant occasion. We are looking for ideas both on the grand and the modest scale. If you think you might have a concept, call Bud Bryant at 451-4294 or Les Howey at 453-5823.

There is an ice fishing derby scheduled for January 28, 1996 at Springwater Conservation Area. We'll be meeting in the parking lot of the Ice House (formerly the London Gardens) on Wellington Road South. This event obviously depends on ice conditions. Hopefully there will be a few more in attendance than the 2 members that showed up at the rainbow derby at the Maitland River this past fall.

If you have any ideas or would like to help develop other "fun" events call Bud Bryant at the above number.

FUND-RAISING

At the moment we have only one source of consistent income and that is the "Nevada"-style ticket sales at the Sunoco gas station near the Sherwood Forest Mall. Everyone in the TRAA probably agrees that with a membership of our size and with the level of community awareness that we're capable of generating, an organisation such as ours should be far more successful at money-making. It simply comes down to the same situation that faces anyone when there's a job to do - you've got to have some people with ideas and more people to bring these plans to fruition. The Fund-raising Committee is great for someone who has been reluctant to commit to some of the other committees. Michealanne Galloway says she is looking for some workable fund-raising ideas and can be reached at 472-3247.

Does the above paragraph sound familiar? That's because it is almost exactly as it appeared in the last newsletter. The reason for this is that we believe that there are some members who are perfectly suited for this committee. If you could see yourself helping out but have reservations, please let Michaelanne or any of the executive know your concerns. We'll do our best to resolve the situation for you.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The new TRAA business cards have arrived and are for use by all members. Pick some up at the next meeting and keep them in your fishing vest, wallet and car to give out to anyone who may be interested in the TRAA. Although the Hotline number is on the front, it's a great idea to write your name and number on the card as well so that your new acquaintance has a personal contact within the TRAA. Promoting the club is a constant duty for every member and these cards are there to help you do so.

It does not appear as though the TRAA will have a table at the General Marine Boathouse Sale on February 3, 1996. This has been a valuable event in the past as an information exhibit, but February is a busy month and members could not afford the time to volunteer for this event. If there are members who are suddenly freed up for this event, please call Les Howey at 453-5823. Thanks go out to Russ and Ray at General Marine for hosting this annual event for the showcase of area clubs.

The London Free Press/CFPL Anglers Club is hosting the Canadian Sports Fishing Night on February 13, 1996. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available at Norm Nora's, Pro's Choice, Travel Sports, Goble's and General Marine. The TRAA will have a display and those members who volunteered for this event last year will be given preference this year.

The TRAA will also have a display at the Western Fair's Fishing and Outdoors show on February 9 to February 11, 1996. Friday and Saturday hours are from 12 noon to 10 p.m. Sunday's hours are 12 noon to 5 p.m. Ideally we would like to see at least two members at the display at all times. This event has a new organizer who promises that this year will be greatly improved over previous years. The focus will be on all sports and outdoor activities which should result in a larger audience. The TRAA booth will be right across from the London Sport Fisheries' trout pond in the middle section of the show. This is always a great event to sign up more members so if you can help out, call Les at 453-5823.

FISH-ELLANEOUS

Mags for Kids

Wait! Don't throw those fishing and outdoors magazines into the "Blue Box". Remember, reuse comes before recycle. There's a bunch of fisher-kids that would love to read your old rags. Just bag 'em up and bring 'em in to the next general meeting. If you can't do that, call Les Howey at 453-5823 to make other arrangements.

TRAA Jackets and T-Shirts

Only minimum orders of ten jackets or T-shirts will be done from now on to curtail expenses. If you want some of these items submit your order and when enough like-minded TRAA members do the same, we'll send away to have 'em done. Call Michaelanne Galloway at 472-3247.

Hello? Is This the Party to Whom I Am Speaking?

Yes indeed, all of you frustrated Hotline callers will be happy to hear that we have purchased a new answering machine that actually records over the previous message (isn't technology wonderful? - Ed.). If you discover a problem with the Hotline message, call Paul Noble at 659-1383. This is because the machine is at Paul's house and if you call someone such as Randy Bailey, there's nothing that he can do because Paul refuses to give Randy a key to his place. Seriously though, this is *your* TRAA Hotline so if you do not like what you hear, let Paul know (ditto goes for this newsletter - Ed.).

Classified

Tony Vaessen has a new Berkley IM6, 6'8", medium action spinning rod for sale. He's asking \$40.00. Call him at 641-6015.

SOAPBOX - Not Necessarily the View of the TRAA

Structure - by Randy Bailey

Organizations such as ours are formed with specific goals that have been put in place by the Membership through a governing body. Within the Organization, there are Bylaws and a Constitution that help the governing body achieve these goals. In turn the governing body is composed of an Executive and a number of Committee Chairpeople. It is the Committees and their purpose that I would like to focus on.

It is the Committees that bring forth the plans and the ideas that will enable the Organization to achieve the goals that were originally set. Because of this, it is the responsibility of every Member to involve the appropriate Committee when coming up with a new concept or idea. It can be discussed at a Committee level and then be presented to the Executive. Following this, a presentation may be made to the Membership at a general meeting. At this point there may or may not be open discussion and a motion carried to vote on the issue. The matter may also be passed over as a topic for the next general meeting to allow Members to think it over so as to avoid a pressured decision.

All of this may seem overly structured to some, but this type of "structure" facilitates several advantages in the decision making process. At the Committee level, all of the pros and cons can be discussed, as they apply to that Committee. When the Committee presents the idea to the Executive, it can then be decided whether or not the money and/or personnel is available, if the idea had been discussed and voted on in previous years, if the idea threatens our charitable status, and other "technical" considerations. In turn, this frees the us from dragging down a general meeting with unnecessary discussion and "red tape".

The Committees were formed to act as planning groups, so to speak. All along we have urged everyone to become involved with one of the Committees. This helps you keep involved and abreast of what is or isn't happening. It also serves as a forum for "airing out" anything that concerns you. Lately, it seems as though we have made some spur of the moment decisions at general meetings without having enough time to think and sometimes this occurs under a great deal of pressure. This obviously leads to dissension in the ranks and will adversely affect the running of the TRAA.

All I can say is that if you have an idea, approach the appropriate Committee with that idea. In turn the idea can be developed and presented in a viable manner to the general Membership for discussion.

In closing I must apologize to all those in attendance (yes, you too Jim) at the December, 1995 general meeting for my outburst. It shouldn't have happened, but it did. It was an expression of my frustration with the deterioration of our Organization's ...um... organization. See you at the next meeting!

THAMES RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

1996 WINTER CALENDER

JANUARY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------|--|------|-----|-----|
| | 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 GENERAL MEETING at U.T.R.C.A. | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 SOCIAL: ICE FISHING | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

FEBRUARY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-------------------------|-----|--|--------------------------|------|--------------|---------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 WESTERN | 10 ONTARIO |
| 11 SPORTSMEN SHOW | 12 | 13 CANADIAN SPORT FISHING SHOW | 14 GENERAL MEETING | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

MARCH

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|----------|-----|------|-------------------------|------|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 REHAB: DEBRUSH DRAINAGE DITCH |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 ANNUAL MEETING | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

JANUARY: MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY OFFICE - (FANSHAWE LAKE)

FEBRUARY: TO BE ANNOUNCED

MARCH: DIRECTOR ELECTIONS FOR 1996

APRIL NOTES

THE WEEK OF APRIL 29th TO MAY 3rd WILL BE USED FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF KOMOKA CREEK, WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING BY THE DIRECTORS.

FOR INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

TROUT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAUL MASUR 471-9592
 WARM WATER COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ED EMERY 673-1513
 REHAB COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RANDY BAILEY 457-7972
 SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUD BRYANT 451-4294
 PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN LES HOWEY 453-5823
 T.R.A.A. PRESIDENT RANDY BAILEY 457-7972
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR PAUL NOBLE 659-1383

FOR GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION CONTACT THE T.R.A.A. HOTLINE at 457-4122