

# *Thames River Anglers Association News*

*Dedication Today for Tomorrow*

**Summer 1997**

**Volume 3**

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**TRAA Membership Form**

*"For the enhancement, protection and promotion of a viable  
multi-species fishery in the Thames River watershed"*

## **Committee Casts**

### **Trout - Randy Bailey, 457-7972**

The hatchery is vacant this summer but will be back in operation in the fall of 1997 with a new batch of brown trout eggs. The TRAA was unable to gain an allotment of rainbow trout eggs this year because the crazy spring weather caused a sporadic steelhead run.

The TRAA hatchery was the victim of a break and enter this past spring. A masked intruder accessed the premises via the open eaves, got into the trout food and made a general mess of things. The prowler is still at large, so steps are being taken to install soffits and fascia to prevent an encore performance. The perpetrator is described as being fur-bearing with a black mask and ringed tail.

### **Rehabilitation - George Hoy, 432-9079**

The Rehabilitation Committee has already put in over 150 hours of work this year. This includes the mulching of all of the trees planted around the Wales pond, the clearing of access trails and the cleanup of instream dead-falls, debris and detrimental overgrowth to restore proper flow in Komoka Creek.

### **Warm Water - Lawson Jones, 451-4106; Michael Mathews, 631-1444;**

**Kevin Lemesurier, 451-3658; Kevin Elliot, 474-0533; Wes Adam, 451-1043.**

Len and Janet Robinson, owners of the Komoka Aqua Driving Range, wanted the TRAA to remove some largemouth bass from their facility. Michael Mathews and Lawson Jones of the TRAA Warm Water Committee met with the Robinsons and made arrangements for a bass transfer to take place on Saturday, June 28, 1997. TRAA members fished from 5:30 am to 9:00 am and managed to fill the CFIP transfer tank with 95 largemouth bass. These bass were then transferred to Sharon Creek Reservoir and then released.

### **Public Relations - Les Howey, 453-5823; Jim McCarthy, 850-0550**

There is now a full set of slides and printed matter on TRAA history and activities that is available for use by members wishing to do a presentation to other organisations and special interest groups. Please contact Les, Jim or any of the executive for assistance.

TRAA hats, crests and pewter key chains are still for sale at very reasonable prices at most meetings and events. Get yours before they're gone!

You can make more room in your "blue box" by bringing your old fishing and outdoor magazines to the general meetings. They will be redistributed to appreciative school kids.

### **A Line from the Editor - Paul Noble, 872-0248**

Thanks go out to the very few who submitted material for this newsletter, particularly George Hoy and Randy Bailey. One of George's submissions, for the sake of balance, was not used because it was very close in subject matter to the "Soapbox" article.

If you are a TRAA member, then you are a reporter for this publication. We expect a deluge of material for the fall issue because everyone has had a full summer of experiences and reflections to draw on. Throw anything my way. I'm an editor; it's my job to sort through and make sense of it all!



## More Nibbles & Bites

### TRAA Approved - "Community Fisheries Improvement Program" Funding

The TRAA has once again been approved for funding to continue our rehabilitation of fish habitat on Komoka Creek. The TRAA's 1997 allotment was less than what we had expected, but we should still be able to accomplish a great deal this year.

There was also another letter from Chris Hodgson, Minister of Natural Resources trumpeting the fact that the CFIP/CWIP funding had been increased to \$1,000,000. This will have a positive effect on all of the grass-roots, community based groups like the TRAA.

### Scrambled Eggs - Unappetizing Food for Thought

Although most of us know the detrimental effects of wading in streams, you may be surprised by the findings of biologists with the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit. They studied the mortality of cutthroat, brown and rainbow trout eggs and pre-emergent fry from fertilization to emergence. A 165 pound person wading twice daily killed 83 per cent of the eggs and pre-emergent fry of cutthroat, 89 per cent of brown trout and 96 per cent of rainbow trout.

The researchers also noted that regulations to limit harvest of adult fish cannot restore a population when there is excessive mortality due to wading. They say that both harvest regulations and restrictions on wading are needed, especially where spawning habitat is limited or where many anglers wade.

*Roberts, B.C. and R.G. White, 1992. Effects of angler wading on survival of trout eggs and pre-emergent fry. N. Amer. J. Fish. Mngt. 12(3):450-459.*

### New Walleye Size Regulations

A new regulation that sets out the size of walleye an angler may keep is now in place for the Ontario waters of Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and the Thames River and its tributaries from Lake St. Clair to the Springbank Park dam in London. The catch and possession limit is still six walleye, but none can be between 17 inches (43 cm) and 25 inches (63.5 cm) in length. Only one walleye can be greater than 25 inches (63.5 cm).

For those anglers with a Conservation License, the above slot size regulations apply to the two walleye catch and possession limit.

The current edition of the 1997 Ontario Sport Fishing Regulations Summary is incorrect on this issue and the error will be corrected in the next edition of the 1997 Summary due out early this summer.

For more information you can contact John Cooper, Lake Erie Management Unit in London at (519) 661-2730. Your TRAA executive has the OMNR News Release announcing this new regulation.

## *The Quotable Angler*

"Don't bother tryin' to fling a doughball for carp with a baitcaster 'cause the darn stuff'll just fly off yer hook." Jim Romphf - TRAA member and a man experienced with the limitations of fishing tackle.

## Upcoming Events

### General Meetings

TRAA general meetings normally take place at the Canadian Corps Association building at 1051 Dundas Street East which is right beside the Kellogg plant. The next one is at 8:00 PM on August 13, 1997, which, as always, is the second Wednesday of the month. Guests are welcome.

The presenter at the August 13th general meeting will be a representative from the Upper Thames Conservation Authority to speak about what the Canadian Heritage River status means and how it will benefit the Thames River watershed. There were a lot of questions at the July general meeting regarding this issue, so we are expecting quite a few of you out to this meeting.

The September 10th general meeting will feature Paul Noble and Randy Bailey who will recap the presentation that they did at River Rendezvous '97 in June. This will benefit newer members who are interested in the history and the activities of the TRAA over the past 10 years. Even with combined experience of 17 years with the TRAA, Randy and Paul found there was quite a lot that they had forgotten or did not even know - so there's something for everyone!

### "A Gathering of Friends"

The first annual "Gathering of Friends" will take place at the Sharon Creek Conservation Area near Delaware, Ontario on August 22, 23 & 24, 1997. Sponsored by Friends of Sharon Creek, this event features a family campout (unserviced sites only), canoeing demonstrations, fly fishing and outdoor exhibits, story telling around a bonfire and much more! This is an open air event (no shelters). Bring what you need to be self sufficient. Drinking water and portable toilets will be on site.

The "Gathering of Friends" is being held to raise awareness of the unique properties of the Sharon Creek Conservation Area and to encourage community involvement in its preservation as a natural area. Donations for the weekend festivities will be accepted at the gate. For more information please contact: Friends of Sharon Creek, 192 Wellington Street, Delaware, Ontario N0L 1E0.

Telephone: (519) 652-5562 or Fax: (519) 679-6266.

## Canuck Chinook

### (a recipe)

This recipe is extremely easy, healthy and even your most critical dinner guests will be impressed with your culinary prowess. It also has a uniquely Canadian distinction. Serves two diners.

Ingredients: 12 ounces of Chinook (or Atlantic) salmon - 2 fillets  
1 1/2 cups of real maple syrup  
1/2 cup of low sodium soy sauce  
4 teaspoons of freshly ground black pepper

Directions: Mix the maple syrup and soy sauce in a shallow glass or ceramic bowl that will just fit the fillets. Place fish in mixture so that they are covered. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for several hours (all day if you have it), turning fillets every hour. Remove salmon from marinade and pat all sides with ground pepper. Brush the cooking grid with olive oil. Grill directly over hot coals for 6 minutes, turn for 5 more minutes and serve with grilled veggies. If there are no hot coals or barbecue handy, you can bake the salmon at 500 degrees F for 7 minutes (be warned, it may be smoky!). Goes with a good dry Chablis. Bon Appetit!



## Soapbox (Not Necessarily the Opinion of the TRAA)

### The Cost of Being Uninformed - by Landon Knett

For the most part, anglers tend to be content pursuing their sport as a means to leave behind the difficulties and the controversies of everyday life. A day fishing is an opportunity to set aside personal and societal woes to clear one's head by communing with nature. Yet even a day on the water with rod in hand will not excuse anyone from having to reflect on, and defend this activity we currently take for granted. One day you will be confronted on the stream or on the sidewalk by people professing to be upholding the rights and feelings of all animals. This will not be an isolated incident. The size of this band of lunatics dressed up as dancing, marching, talking and singing animals has already reached "Disney-esque" proportions.

What will you say? What will you do? These are questions that you must ask yourself in the most serious manner. Having an intelligent response backed by facts is the only method that, in the end, may subdue these zealots. Using the same guerrilla tactics as they do or simply telling them to "F - OFF" will only serve to re-enforce their promotion of us as coarse, uncivilised brutes.

Organisations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) are fringe groups that are approaching mainstream status. Outside of being well funded and well connected, their strengths lie in the systematic emotional exploitation of an essentially uninformed public. Their weakness, as is the case with most hysterical entities, is that their arguments are often out of context, factually flawed and often, simple fabrications.

Groups like PETA have already convinced a large number of unapprised people by using these dubious methods and are banking on an effect not unlike "The Emperor's New Clothes" to expand their ranks. However, as is always the case in these situations, the facts and a willingness to present them calmly, usually exposes the nakedness and shame of such "snake oil salesmanship".

Firstly, we should find out exactly what the agenda(s) of these organisations is and why they exist. It is fruitless going into a discussion not knowing what the discussion is about. Secondly, we must talk amongst ourselves - individually, at a grass roots level and finally as a cohesive group. PETA and their ilk are very organised and so we must rebut as a structured union of concerned anglers. This is not an option; it is a necessity. The natural environment that groups like the TRAA have taken volunteer stewardship of is at stake.

Another point to remember is that opinions and a respect for the truth begin to form at a very early age. My four year old son recently asked if a fish felt pain when hooked and I honestly told him that I did not know. This was understood and accepted because even at four years old he already realises that nobody has all of the answers. On that same level, he also trusts that when I do have an answer, he can believe it to be true.

And the score is: Daddy, 1; silly stranger in a fish costume handing out misinformation, 0.

**traatoon!**



The combination of Randy's new 13 1/2 foot float rod and his aggressive hook-setting technique allowed him to eliminate having to clean and cook his catch!

## **TRAA Memberships**

Please use the handy form below to join the TRAA. You can mail it in with a cheque or money order (remember not to send cash in the mail) or you can come to the general meeting and pay your dues there - cash readily accepted. Your immediate family is included with your membership!

Name: _____	Renewal? Y___ N___
Address: _____	City: _____
Postal Code: _____	Telephone: _____
TRAA Membership Dues: \$15.00 + *Donation: _____ = Total: _____	
*Receipt issued for donations.	