

The Thames River Angler
Newsletter of the Thames River Anglers Association

Winter

1999

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~HIGHLIGHTS~*

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President's Message

Dave Jeffries, the 1998 President of the TRAA, should be thanked for his effort over the past year. Dave, a relatively new member, was introduced to this role with a promise of unwavering support from the rest of the executive and the membership. He struggled valiantly through 1998 with very little support.

This past year has been one of transition for the TRAA. It is common for an organisation to experience a periodic "hiccup" in its growth or evolution. Our membership numbers are at an historic low. We have lost some focus in regard to our overall philosophy. Many of our projects have become shelved and/or stale.

However, the TRAA remains a respected entity in this community despite these apparent problems. Successful organisations are able to seize perceived problems and turn them into opportunities. Let's make 1999 the year that the TRAA capitalised on its opportunities. Between you and me, it's possible!

Randy Bailey

Editor's Note

There are those who will write letters of thanks, complaint, praise, or just to say hello. This has been largely replaced by the telephone call. There are those who may have actually written essays, but this probably occurred during school years. Many people, because they don't do it regularly, feel awkward writing even a memo. Is writing becoming a lost art to the common person? I can't believe it for a second.

It's a lot like riding a bicycle. If you've been out of the saddle for a while, it's a bit wobbly at first, but it quickly smoothes out and becomes fun!

So give it a try! Give me your letters, tips, quotes, stories, poems, reports and jokes. I'll take your words on disk, tape, paper, cardboard, napkins, birch bark, and so on. If you are still hesitant to compose your own words, try saving articles from magazines, newspapers, periodicals and other publications.

I'm eager to look at most information with an angling or environmental bent to it.

It's really tough to edit a blank piece of paper.

Paul Noble

~The Quotable Angler~

"... Throughout the whole of religious tradition, rivers have been gods. Water has been the soul. And water is life, the ultimate life. Maybe that's what we brought out of the African deserts – the notion that water is life. I think that's a sort of staple. It appears in every religion, doesn't it? That spring sources and flowing water are the spirit... are life. In *Revelations* it issues from under the throne of God, pure as crystal. The divine influx. Somehow we make that connection."

Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate of England from 1984 to 1998

Commenting on why, in the title piece from his collection of poetry, River, he calls the river a god, immortal. From an interview shortly before his death on October, 28, 1998

Trout Committee

The TRAA received 30,000 brown trout eggs from the Ontario Ministries of Natural Resources (OMNR) hatchery at Normandale.

They are presently in the sac fry stage and swimming freely in the hatching trough. Within the next week or two, the yoke sac will be fully absorbed and they should be actively feeding. This is described as the "swim up" stage. We will then transfer the fry into the two circular tanks and begin the process of helping our "babies" grow.

The planned release site for this batch is Hall's Creek, near Ingersoll. This year, the release will have a small twist to it. We are actually going to fin clip the little fellows to aid in identification for future studies.

The TRAA has approached the OMNR with a request allowing us to collect rainbow trout eggs this spring from Komoka Creek. The time frame this is usually the middle of February to the middle of March. We must make a concerted effort if we want to be successful in this endeavour. *We need the involvement of all club members.*

Ralph Lass

Warm Water Committee

Hats off to all those involved in the retrofitting of the walleye hatchery. The original design of the walleye hatchery proved to be quite functional. With the experience of only a few successful hatches, members of the Warm Water Committee decided that refinements would be beneficial. Another walleye hatch is planned for this spring.

Also planned are transfers, habitat improvement, and other projects.

This committee has really taken off and this coming year should be exciting. It's great to see that the key people responsible for our success thus far are going to continue their winning ways.

Lawson Jones

Wadda-Ya-Catch in Fanshawe Lake?

The question might be "What *don't* you catch in Fanshawe Lake?"

In the fall of 1998 the OMNR, the TRAA and other interested parties did an electro-fishing survey of Fanshawe Lake. The main purpose of the exercise was to assist the Royal Ontario Museum in looking for a hybrid species of sucker. A specimen was successfully located and catalogued.

We also found smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, panfish, young of the year walleye, and an abundance of coarse fish. Some rather large northern pike appeared on a previous outing, but this time they managed to elude us.

The young of the year walleye were a very pleasant surprise. Although it has been documented that natural reproduction occurs in the area, it is reasonable to assume that some of these fish may have originated in the TRAA walleye hatchery!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

General Meeting for the Thames River Anglers Association

Please note that these meetings now commence at **7:30 PM**. Following the meeting, Ian James is back by popular demand and will speak about his first full season on the Thames River. What he has to say about his experience may surprise you!

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Annual General Meeting for the Thames River Anglers Association

This meeting is for you, the members, to come out and cast your vote to elect those whom you wish to represent the TRAA during the year of 1999. And, again, please note that the meeting will start at **7:30 PM**.

Saturday, February 6, 1999

Annual General Marine Boathouse Sale

We will be setting up a small display to show some of our accomplishments. TRAA hats, keychains and memberships will be available. Members can sell their unwanted fishing tackle at the TRAA booth. The hours are from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We need enough people to represent the TRAA at the show from start to finish. Contact Dave Jeffries at 686-8931 if you wish to help.

Thursday, February 18 through Sunday, February 21, 1999

The London Boat, Cottage and Fishing Show

This is another event that is fast approaching. It has been confirmed that the TRAA will have a 10 x 10 foot space. This exhibit will consist of plaques, awards, and display boards to give our club more local exposure. We will also look at the prospect of having the slide presentation that was produced for the River Rendezvous '97 Conference. We will be selling memberships, hats, and keychains. Handouts will include TRAA business cards and pamphlets that briefly outline what the TRAA is all about.

It is imperative that we have sufficient members to represent the TRAA at the booth for the weekend. There will be more information and a sign-up sheet available at the February 10th General Meeting. This could be a very valuable tool in generating some local interest as well as helping to increase our membership numbers.

Contact Fred Smithers at 455-2586 if interested in helping out.

Contact Information

Here are some sources of information for the Thames River Anglers Association:

TRAA 24-Hour Hotline (519) 457-4122
TRAA Internet Site www.angler.org
TRAA E-mail Address traa@angler.org
TRAA Newsletter Published Quarterly

The best way to stay informed is to attend the TRAA General Meetings. These occur on every second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM. The location is the Canadian Corps Association, 1051 Dundas Street, London, Ontario.

Fishy Recipe

Grilled Tuna Steaks with Citrus Butter

Ingredients

1	tablespoon	butter, softened
1	tablespoon	olive oil
1	tablespoon	lemon juice
1	tablespoon	lime juice
1	teaspoon	black peppercorns, ground
1 ¼	pounds	tuna steaks, 4 pieces

Directions

Combine all ingredients but fish in a small bowl. Place each steak on a hot grill and spread some of the citrus butter on each piece. Grill for 5 minutes and turn. Spread on remaining citrus butter and grill for 6-7 minutes or until done. Grill some red and orange bell peppers as a side dish.

The Entertainment Section

TITILLATING TABLOID TRASH: MINNOW BUCKET GRAVEYARD!!

Despite recent overwhelming proof, Scott “Hiemer” Roulston is sticking to his previous stories. “It just disappeared” and “I don’t recall using your minnow bucket”, have been the types of excuses used by Mr. Roulston to explain the disappearance of a number of minnow buckets over a period of decades. A posse of former fishing buddies descended upon Mr. Roulston’s property and located the grizzly remains of their beloved bait buckets buried beneath one of his many garden sheds. One search party member, Randy Bailey, was heard muttering, “All this time I thought he was just an innocent, absent minded fool. Now we know better.” No one dares to wonder what could have possibly motivated Mr. Roulston to engage in such a heinous crime.

Although an inexplicably large number of minnow buckets have mysteriously disappeared while in close proximity to Scott Roulston, the remainder of the above feature story is fictitious and is meant solely for the entertainment of the readers of this newsletter.

TIPS AND ADVISE

“If you string Christmas lights on your rod, the heat from the bulbs keeps the ice out of your guides.” *Rick Yeadon, Full-time Trucker, Part-time Steelheader*

“There’s nothing like the warmth of an ER waiting room after a cold day on the river!” *Les Howey, after burying a “Flatfish” in the back of Scott Roulston’s head.*

“Never go winter float tubing in a kilt!”

Ian James, Scottish-Canadian Guide, Artist and Writer