

Thames River Anglers Association News

Dedication Today for Tomorrow

Fall 1997

Volume 4

Highlights

Committee Bulletins

A Farewell to Stoney Creek?

Soapbox - "Brrrrrrrrrr"

traatoon!

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

Message from the President

As another year draws to a close, we should begin to direct our attentions to the challenges of the coming year. The Annual Meeting on January 14, 1998 is where we will be electing 11 directors to guide the TRAA through the year of 1998. From these 11 Directors, a President, Vice President, Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer will be chosen. Many of you may be aware that several of the 1997 executive will not be seeking re-election for various reasons. This means that nominations for directors must be undertaken far more energetically than in past years. It is time for some "new blood" to step up and give the TRAA the infusion of enthusiasm it truly deserves.

Committee Casts

Trout - Randy Bailey, 457-7972

George Hoy and Lloyd Graham went down to the Normandale Hatchery on November 21 and brought back approximately 2,000 brown trout eggs for the TRAA trout hatchery. Unfortunately, we were not notified soon enough for the pick up of the eggs and so most were eyed up and some were actually in the sac-fry stage. As a result, the Trout Committee believes there may be a 50% loss from now until release. A donor stream will have to be found quickly because the fry will be released as soon as they reach the "swim-up" stage and the water temperature of the stream is close to that of the hatchery spring source. Suggestions for a donor stream can be directed to Randy Bailey.

Rehabilitation - George Hoy, 432-9079

This committee is normally fairly dormant at this time of year. However, the general membership of the TRAA should be seriously looking for a Rehab' Committee Chairperson for this coming year. George took on this post for 1997 with the belief that someone would step up to co-chair with him. Odds are that because no one did, he won't be fooled again!

Warm Water - Lawson Jones, 451-4106; Michael Mathews, 631-1444; Kevin Lemesurier, 451-3658; Kevin Elliot, 474-0533; Wes Adam, 451-1043.

This another committee that tends to be active on a seasonable basis. Although they are not busy right now, most of us hope that those names above will remain for another year. This past year of 1997 was one of the most industrious in history for this committee.

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

The display boards that were dismantled so that slides could be made for the River Rendezvous '97 presentation will have to be completely redone. Other display materials for shows and other events are being considered. Most of this will be addressed in the new year. Speaking of 1998, Les Howey is interested in speaking with anyone who may consider taking over his position on this committee.

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

Thanks to the few who, over the course of the last four issues of this newsletter, submitted raw material for me to edit and present in these hallowed pages. Look for a more aggressive approach from your editor in the future when soliciting data from TRAA members for *your* newsletter.

More Nibbles & Bites

Stoney Creek Land Use Options

A public meeting on October 18 was held to review land use plan alternatives for the Stoney Creek Community Planning Area. This was the third such meeting to decide the fate of the area bounded by Fanshawe Park Road to the south, Sunningdale Road to the north, Highbury Avenue to the east and Adelaide Street North to the west. All three options discussed thus far call for either residential and/or commercial development in this ecologically unique Carolinian forest area. Stoney Creek is also one of the last remaining cold water streams in the London area. Copies of the three options are posted at the Northridge Branch Library on Glenora Drive. Another meeting is tentatively planned for December 16 and the city will present its recommended land use plan at this time. This will not be the final plan. It is not too late to get involved. William Pol and Jerry Tikalsky of the City Planning staff and the lead consultant for the landowners, Ric Knutsen, welcome feedback on the three options put forth.

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 the Annual Meeting on January 14, 1998, where 10 directors are elected from whom the executive for 1998 will be selected.

General Marine Boathouse Sale

The TRAA will once again be participating in the General Marine Boathouse Sale on Saturday, February 7, 1998. The good folks at General Marine are once again making room for area angling clubs to set up displays in their showroom at 229 Horton Street here in London. All involved will be able to sell their old or unused tackle in this "flea market" atmosphere. Details on how you can take part will be available at the January 14 Annual Meeting.

The Quotable Angler

"Blub-bub, aarrg, ooooo; cheeeze, that's cold! Oh no, not again! Nooooo, blub-bub..."

TRAA member Dave Jeffries tests the temperature of the Maitland River using the total immersion technique - not once, but twice - during the TRAA Rainbow Derby in November.

Soapbox

(Not Necessarily the Opinion of the TRAA)

Death & Dismemberment is a Chilling Experience - by I.M. Freisen

There's nothing cool about frostbite or hypothermia. Believe me when I say this because I've had first hand experience with both. Let's just say instead of "Cool Hand", my friends call me "Stubby"! And before you go off half-cocked, it's because I lost my toes to frostbite, not because I was seen climbing out of a cold pool in a Speedo.

There are more and more weirdoes joining us already established weirdoes angling for elusive winter rainbows. With this, there seems to be a lot of wading going on in order to "own" a larger piece of water. Besides scaring most of the fish away, wading can greatly increase your chances of suffering from hypothermia. Don't be fooled just because it's a spring-like day; when wading in frigid water, air temperature rarely makes much of a difference. Even wading cold spring creeks in the summer can bring on the effects of hypothermia. The reason is simple; water sucks the heat out of you faster than the air. A body temperature drop of only a few degrees from that magical 98.6 degrees F is all you need to start dying. You won't feel anything at first and then, without warning, a persistent shivering takes over your body. Time to head back to the car, bonehead! If you decide your tough enough to stick it out, your body's temperature drops below 95 degrees F causing you to feel exhausted and weak. As you continue to fish under these conditions, your brain starts gasping for oxygen, muscle coordination falters, as does your mind. As your body temperature continues to drop, you to fall into a stupor, collapse, die and drift through all of the prime fish-holding lies. This also ruins everyone else's day.

So what should you do to avoid becoming just another bothersome snag on the river bed? You could start by limiting your wading. This also has the additional bonus of not having insults and split shot hurled at you. Another obvious solution is dressing appropriately. It blows me away that most so-called Canadians haven't got a clue how to clothe themselves for the climate that they grew up with. One of the worst things you can do is to pile on so much stuff that moisture can't escape and warmth-giving blood circulation is cut off. Wear loose fitting, layered clothing that insulates, allows moisture to wick away, and breathes - be sure the outer layer is wind resistant. If you can't figure out what I'm talking about, buy a trailer in Florida and stay away from winter fishing. You could also seek help from a reputable outfitter. If there is a threat of rain, make sure the water-proof outerwear is on *before* the rain starts (I feel like I'm talking to my kid). Neoprene waders are great, but only if they fit. If your buddies can read the brand name on your undies, it's time to hit the stair climber or buy a new pair of waders, big fella. Many seasoned stealheaders are going back to the "boot-foot" style of wader, claiming it's warmer. Either way, make sure the boot is sized generously enough to fit over your extra socks, etc. Wear a decent hat; if I have to tell you why, go back to Arizona, tourist. Something that really works and few people use any more are scarves. If you still insist on dying, at least a scarf makes it easier for your buddies to fish you out of the river and drag your stiff self back to the car.

Frostbite is no walk in the park either. It usually happens when it's 15 degrees F or colder. High winds and wet skin tend to hurry up the proceedings. Frostbite usually attacks the extremities first, freezing the skin and then moving on to the underlying tissues. If you can't feel a fingertip, toe, ear, nose or Mister Happy, get away from my trout and go home because it's painfully obvious

your not prepared for this kind of fishing. Frostbitten tissue is pallid and becomes harder as it freezes. The really neat thing about frostbite is that most damage happens as you thaw out your toe-sicles. The ice crystals rupture the membranes of adjoining cells and sucks them dry via osmosis. The area swells, blisters and in extreme cases, gangrene can develop. Then we're talking surgery, pal.

To prevent frostbite, keep it all warm and dry. Simple? Yes. Do you do it? No. How about the infamous fingerless gloves that seem to be a steelheader's standard equipment? If you truly believe that these gloves actually aid in the capture of steelhead, at least allow a parent or legal guardian to stow some sensible finger-wear in the back of your vest to warm up with.

Okay, so you or some other mental giant still manages to become inflicted with one of the above maladies. What do you do? Frankly, I could care less - one less pylon on the river.

For hypothermia, get as warm and dry as quickly as possible. If you were hogging a pool and fell in, get rid of your wet stuff and put dry stuff on. No dry stuff? Wring out the wet stuff and put it back on. Besides helping you to reach your inner child, the fetal position also helps to conserve heat, especially under a blanket (one of those space survival blankets will fit nicely in your vest and your buddies will get a yuk as you shiver under it 'cause it makes you look like a giant Jiffy Pop). If you're in the middle of nowhere, build a fire. Don't build a huge inferno because the heat goes straight up instead of at you. Build three little ones in a close triangle and sit in the middle. The pattern also gives passing pilots something to focus on.

For frostbite, the key here is a slow, gradual, snail-like return to normal temperatures. Frozen tissue is best thawed in water that is tepid - 100 to 102 degrees F is about right. This is easy with the fingers and toes. Anything above the neck may require extraordinary breath control.

Prevention is definitely the preferred method among intelligent winter anglers. If you must join me on the river this winter, bring another idiot along with you so you can watch over each other.

Personally, I think the best prevention of all is: *stay at home amateur, and leave the river to me!*

traatoon!

