

Thames River Anglers Association News

Dedication Today for Tomorrow

Winter 1997

Volume 1

Highlights

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Soapbox - Ocular Safety

Membership Renewal Form

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

TRAA Executive for 1997

The following executive positions were selected from the eleven directors that were elected at the January 8, 1997 Annual General Meeting.

<u>President</u>Randy Bailey	<u>Vice President</u>Jim McCarthy
<u>Chairperson</u>Bud Bryant	<u>Secretary/Treasurer</u>Paul Noble
<u>Directors</u>Tony Vaessen, Les Howey, Bob James, Fred Smithers, Archie Graham, Dennis Storing, Mark Summerfield.	

Committee Chairpeople for 1997

The following volunteer positions are in place and all chairpeople are to be approached by members wishing to be involved. It should be pointed out that the function of these Chairpeople is to facilitate, organise, and report for each of their respective committees. Most need members to form their committees.

<u>Trout</u>Randy Bailey	<u>Rehabilitation</u>George Hoy*
<u>Warm Water</u>Lawson Jones	<u>Social</u>Bud Bryant
<u>Hotline Editor</u>Paul Noble	<u>Newsletter Editor</u>Paul Noble
<u>Library</u>Paul Masur	<u>Telephone</u>Fred Smithers
<u>Public Relations</u>Les Howey and Jim McCarthy	
<u>London Sports Fisheries Rep's</u>Bud Bryant and Bob James	
<u>Membership Co-ordinator</u>Archie Graham	

*George Hoy's condition on accepting this position was that the responsibilities be shared with a Co-Chairperson.

Committee Casts

A Line from the President - Randy Bailey

This year of 1997 is the eleventh of existence for the TRAA. There have been a lot of changes in our first decade and this year promises to be an informative, activity-filled year. We have all of our committee and other volunteer positions filled for 1997. Each of our general meetings will feature a guest speaker to wrap things up. All of our committees have exciting plans and projects.

I would like to say Happy New Year to members and prospective members and to encourage you to get involved. We really do make a difference!

Trout - Randy Bailey (457-7972)

The brown trout fry are actively feeding on their own and are approximately 1.5 inches in length. Halls Creek near Ingersoll has been selected as the donor stream for this batch of 20,000 brown trout. They will be released as soon as the water temperature of Halls Creek is similar to that of the water in the TRAA hatchery.

In early spring the hatchery will once again be hosting rainbow trout eggs. However, this depends on Trout Committee members capturing enough of the steelhead returning to Komoka Creek for their eggs and milt.

The hatchery was without electricity for a few days because a short circuit in the line kept tripping a breaker. This problem has been solved and things are back to normal. The brown trout fry probably didn't notice anything different because members, who regularly visit daily, fed them the old fashioned way - by hand!

Rehabilitation - George Hoy (432-9079)

A CFIP application will be tendered for funding with the focus to be shared mainly between two projects. One is the continuing restoration and maintenance of Komoka Creek. Most of this rehab' work will centre on that section of the creek north of County Road 14.

Also sharing in this funding will be another project involving the Environmental Youth Corps. The TRAA may seek to split our commitment to the EYC's entire summer term with another organisation. George Hoy is still searching for a TRAA member to help him out with this Committee. This is an excellent opportunity for someone to "learn the ropes" in this fascinating facet of the TRAA.

Warm Water - Lawson Jones (451-4106)

This Committee has been resurrected to become one of the most popular within the TRAA. Many of the projects still in the planning stages are bass transfers, the walleye hatchery and habitat restoration.

Social - Bud Bryant (451-4294)

This year's Ice Fishing Derby has been up in the air because of fluctuating weather. There will be a date decided upon at the February 12 general meeting. Talk to Bud Bryant if you have any ideas in this regard.

Newsletter - Paul Noble (457-6069)

The TRAA newsletter could always use more input from the general membership. If there is anything that you can offer (particularly for the Soapbox) please submit it to Paul Noble.

Public Relations - Les Howey (453-5823) & Jim McCarthy (850-0557)

It has become apparent that the TRAA can no longer delay creating a presentation that can fully explain everything about the TRAA. This should include a slides, displays, printed matter and other mediums that can be used at shows, schools and other forums. Les Howey, Jim McCarthy, Paul Masur and Paul Noble are involved in this project by virtue of their volunteer positions. If there are any members willing to help out, please approach any of the above people in person or by telephone. The General Marine Boathouse Sale on February 1, 1997 was once again a success for all involved. The TRAA was there with the display and generated a great deal of interest. Thanks go to the good people at General Marine and to all of the members that volunteered their time. The TRAA display will once again be in action at the Fishing and Outdoor Show at the Western Fairgrounds on February 7, 8 & 9, 1997. The TRAA will soon have a web page on the internet. We'll keep you posted... Pamphlets are again available, so check your favourite retail establishments to see if they have run out. There are still plenty of TRAA cards to put in your wallet or vest, so check your supply!

More TRAA Stuff

Longevity Award

It was decided at the January 25th executive meeting that those members who have managed to survive 10 years as TRAA members deserve to be recognised for their decade of dedication. If you can think of an appropriate name for this award, please make it known at the February 12 general meeting.

TRAA Merchandise

TRAA baseball style caps are designed to enhance any angler's wardrobe and are available for only \$10.00 - WOW! Order now and you will receive a matching embroidered crest for only \$4.00 extra - Unbelievable!! But wait, that's not all! Our Tenth Anniversary buying power has allowed us to offer a stylish key ring with a beautiful pewter medallion that has the TRAA creeds and a fish cast right into it in fine detail for a mere \$3.00 - Incredible!!! Get yours from Les Howey at any general meeting before they're gone!

Speakers

The TRAA is always looking for people to help wrap up our general meetings with a presentation related to angling or the environment. If you feel that you have something of interest to share with the rest of the members or if you know of someone who could fit the bill, please contact Les Howey or Jim McCarthy.

The "It Could Happen to You" Department

A yawning angler in Brazil died when a fish leapt out of the river, lodged in his throat and suffocated him. Yikes! Sure does take your breath away doesn't it?

Upcoming Events

General Meeting

The next TRAA general meeting takes place at 8:00 PM on February 12, 1997. This, as always, is the second Wednesday of the month. The venue is the Canadian Corps Association building at 1051 Dundas Street East which is right beside the Kellogg plant.

After TRAA business, Jim McCarthy will conduct a seminar on the intricacies of ice fishing. Jim probably does more of this type of angling than the entire TRAA membership combined, so don't miss out! As always, guests are welcome. If you have a friend who may be interested in learning more about the TRAA, bring him/her out.

TRAA Ice Fishing Derby

The date for this event will be decided at the February 12 general meeting. A decision as to the location will also be decided then. If you have a secret hot spot that you would like to share with your fellow TRAA members for the Derby, please let us know at the meeting (or you can just tell me in the utmost confidence - Ed.).

'97 Fishing & Outdoor Show

The TRAA will again be participating in this show with our display. If you are not already helping out with the TRAA display, you can attend the show Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8, from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM or Sunday, February 9, from noon to 5 PM. General admission is \$6.00, two seniors can get in for \$6.00 (Friday only), children 5 to 12 are \$3.00 and kids under 5 are free.

EcoFest '97

This event is being sponsored by the Environmental Club of Saunders Secondary School and will feature displays and presentations by area organisations at the school located at 941 Viscount Road. The TRAA display will be there both days. The dates are February 21 & 22, 1997.

Celebrate the Thames Finale

A wrap up of the "Celebrate the Thames" will occur on the weekend of May 31 and June 1, 1997 at Greenway Park. Details will follow as they become available.

The Quotable Angler

"They're in there!" - Illustrating that hope springs eternal within every angler...

"Shows up good in the water!" - Verbally reinforcing a lure selection...

"...but it'll last forever!" - Justifying the price of outrageously expensive tackle to his wife Nancy...

These nuggets of wisdom are courtesy of TRAA member Scott "Hiemer" Roulston.

Soapbox

I Lost It in the Sun - Tony Vaessen

Almost every person in Canada is aware of the potential dangers associated with exposure to the Sun; specifically UV-A and UV-B rays. This topic arises every summer, as weather reports provide daily updates of UV RATINGS or "BURN TIME". As parents we try to ensure the health of our children by purchasing Industrial Strength sunblock, and liberally applying it to any exposed skin. Then we place a baseball cap atop their skulls (all 3 of my kids seem to think the peak faces the back) before sending them off to play in the rain.

With public awareness bordering on the absurd, it surprises me to see a relative lack of concern for our eyes. As anglers we spend a disproportional amount of leisure time in, on or around water and ice. We are therefore exposed to additional reflected UV rays from the surrounding water. The majority of anglers wear sunglasses while fishing, believing the tinting film or "Polarized" lenses provide protection from Ultra Violet rays. This belief is erroneous and we may be doing more harm to our eyes than if we refrained from wearing dark lenses completely! When the eye is subjected to a darkened environment, the pupil responds by dilating, exposing the Retina to more Ultra Violet rays than if we didn't wear dark glasses at all.

The coating which is applied to eye wear to prevent the passage of UV rays to the eyes is transparent, and may be ordered on most prescription glasses. Purchasing expensive sunglasses is not a guarantee of UV protection either, since some so-called "Designer" glasses out there were out-performed by others that were given away at Burger King. A growing number of Opticians are capable of testing existing eye wear and newly purchased sunglasses will display a UV RATING label.

TRAA Memberships

Your TRAA membership is due on January 1 of every year. If you have not yet renewed for 1997, we have included the handy form below. Simply fill it out and send it in with a cheque or money order to the address featured on the card; remember not to send cash in the mail. You can also come to the general meeting and renew there; cash will be accepted enthusiastically in person.

Please print and return this form with your payment of \$15.00.

**Thames River Anglers Association
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Name: _____

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