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For the enhancement, protection and promotion of a viable, multi-species fishery within the Thames River watershed.

About the TRAA

**The TRAA works at a grassroots level within the Thames River watershed to:**

##### protect, enhance and regenerate a viable, multi-species, year-round fishery.

##### promote and participate in environmental clean-up, pollution control and rehabilitation.

##### breed, relocate and stock to re-establish or augment appropriate species of fish.

##### promote environmentally sound sport fishing practices.

##### form partnerships with community businesses, government agencies, special interest groups, landowners, and other stakeholders in the Thames River watershed.

##### increase public awareness of the unique diversity of the Thames River watershed, it’s challenges, it’s recreational opportunities and it’s vital importance to our community.

Upcoming Events

TRAA Fishing Evening – Thursday, August 8th

TRAA General Meeting – Wednesday, September 11th

TRAA Paddle & Fish – July 13th

Become a Member Today

Join our family for a whole year for only $25! Your membership also adds another voice to our efforts in protecting and enhancing aquatic habitats in the London & area community. You’ve taken a lot of enjoyment from this unique fishery. It’s time to give back by being part of the solution!

Efforts are also underway to get money to continue and improve many of the TRAA’s most vital projects. This will include improvements to the TRAA Trout Hatchery and continuation of the Salmonid Monitoring Program.

**ABOUT US**

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Discover more about who the TRAA is, what we do for the community, and how to become a member

Who is the TRAA

In the spring of 1986, the TRAA was formed by anglers concerned with the state of the fishery in the Thames River watershed, particularly the dwindling smallmouth bass population in the North Thames River. The TRAA is not a fishing club, although most members are anglers and share fishing as a common interest. We are a "hands on" environmental group who likes to work at a grass roots level.

The TRAA is a volunteer organization, governed by a formal constitution and by-laws. An elected Executive, with the guidance of the General Membership, sets the policies and direction for the TRAA. The TRAA has a history of always having a core group of active members supported by those who just want to be part of the solution. Either way, every member of the TRAA is active in their advocacy for the health of the Thames River watershed and its inhabitants.

Project 1

**Salmonid Monitoring Program**

**Began: Spring, 2012**

Here's an overview of what happened over a few weekends in the Spring of 2012 when TRAA members and personnel from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) waded in for Year 3 of our 5-year Salmonid Tagging and Monitoring Program.

Jon George, an MNR biologist from Thunder Bay who is helping us out with this project, compiled the comparative results of 2010 (Year 1) and 2011 (Year 2) and 2012 (Year 3) in an easy-to-understand report.

We'll be doing it all over again during the spring of 2013 for Year 4.

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4lJqdQ3YMA>

Click the video to check out Rob Huber’s video compilation!

Project 2

**TRAA Trout Hatchery**

**Began: 1986**

**The TRAA Trout Hatchery began in the mid-1980's as an outdoor upwelling box located adjacent to Komoka Creek on private property. While it was a simple and rustic affair, the TRAA enjoyed incredible egg hatching and fry survivability rates for several seasons.**

**IMG1 & IMG2**

The picture on the left shows the front of the upwelling box with the individual outlets for each segregated cell emptying into a trough running along the front of the box. The shot on the right shows the back of the upwelling box with the spring source supply pipe feeding each separate valve for every cell. The stainless steel tank in the background was re-purposed from a milking operation into a fry holding tank.The box on the top of the tank housed the automatic feeder.  
  
**While this setup served us well it was also very challenging to maintain. We had to pack the upwelling box with straw bales (see picture above right) to keep the water in the cells from freezing. Members of the Trout Hatchery Rotation had to huddle over each cell picking eggs in wind-driven rain, sleet and snow. Something had to be done so a new setup was housed in a new enclosure**.

**This facility consisted of a hatching trough with trays, a stainless steel fry box and a 6-foot diameter growth tank.** The tray-style of egg incubation was used for many years after the enclosure was built. It had its faults but as you can see, the comfort level for the egg pickers was beyond compare.

In the fall of 2012 we retro-fitted the old fry box into a single-cell fry box for brook trout eggs. **Always looking to improve, the TRAA Tout Committee began looking at ways to emulate the success we had with the upwelling box when it was outside. To that end we had a new one constructed by the carpentry class at H.B. Beal Secondary School and they did a great job!**

**IMG3**

The picture above show the box in its "raw" form on the shop floor at H.B. Beal Secondary School. It was constructed of marine plywood and ingeniously fastened together for strength.

In the summer of 2013 TRAA members trucked it out to the hatchery site and wrestled it down the several flights of stairs to the enclosure. It was then painted and assembled, fitted with its plumbing and drains, caulked and tested then caulked again.

IMG4

This is the new upwelling box as it sits in its first year of service. There are six cells, each completely segregated from the rest. This will allow us to incubate one, two or even three species of trout at once!   
The two panels at the back with the single handles are hinged to be easily swung up so that the egg trays can be maintained. Once the eggs hatch the trays are removed and the fry begin consuming their egg sacs. Once they've used up their egg sacs they begin to move around actively. This is called the "swim-up" stage and they drift into the front array of their cells.  
The top panels with the double handles lift right off for access to the front array of the cells where the newly hatched fry will end up once they've reached the "swim-up" stage.

Currently we hatch both brown trout and brook trout together in the fall through to spring. While the browns are growing in the large circular tank, the brook trout will be in the stainless steel rectangular tank you can see on the right along the back wall.  
Rainbow trout eggs are introduced to the upwelling box n the early spring when the browns and brookies are still in the tanks. They will be released before the rainbows are ready to be transferred to the circular growth tank.

One of the most important mandates of the TRAA Trout Hatchery is the conducting of regular tours. Those in attendance are treated to the stages in a trout's life cycle that cannot normally be witnessed. If you and/or your group are interested in a tour, please contact us.

The TRAA transfer tank is only a temporary home for these trout fry. After the water temperature in the bags has been closely acclimated to that of the stream, the trout fry are carefully released into their new environs.

IMG5

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Meet The Team (NAMES)

President: Ron Huber

Vice President: Paul Holmes

Secretary: Jeremy Beaton

Treasurer: Randy Bailey

Chairperson: Adam Bengen

**GET INVOLVED**

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Learn about how to become a member of the TRAA, where meetings are held, and check out a few relevant links

How to Get Involved

This is the best membership deal you can buy! Some people have a hard time paying to volunteer. Well if that's you, just give us $25.00 every year and we won't bug you - much. You'll get a card that says you’re a TRAA member and you'll get periodic updates on what you're missing out on.

Participate, help out, have fun and give a little bit back to the Thames River watershed! Not only does $25.00 get you in good standing as a TRAA member, it also includes everyone in your immediate family!

Merchandise

Many of you have already ordered the TRAA tee shirts, but if you haven't you had better hurry because many sizes are almost sold out! These are a steal at $15 each. There are three different hat colours available: Clay Grey, Burnt Orange and Taupe. If you thought the tee's were a good deal, all three editions of these hats are also priced at $15 each.

We now have some nice stickers featuring the TRAA logo that you can display on your vehicle, boat, lunchbox or wherever you like. These are $2 each but you get one for joining the TRAA as a member or renewing an existing TRAA membership. Get your TRAA Gear (makes a great Christmas gift!) at any TRAA event, such as this coming General Meeting.

Get Involved (CONTACT FORM)

**The best way to join up is to attend a TRAA event or email us for other options. If you want to go old school, you can mail a cheque to us at:**

Thames River Anglers Association  
**c/o Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association  
790 Southdale Road East  
London, Ontario  
N6E 1A8**

**NEWSLETTERS**

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Look through our archive of newsletters, past and present

Explore Our Library

The first newsletters were banged out manually on a typewriter and then copied about 100 times for distribution. These initial efforts were simple (no pictures or colour!) but they did the job. The latest versions are electronic, emailed to members and other TRAA friends. They feature nice formatting, pictures and yes, colour!

The greatest challenge over the years has been getting editions published on time (or at all!). Such is life within a volunteer organization like the TRAA; you have to focus your energies on where they are most effective and a newsletter falls further down that priority list.

What Did We Miss

If you have copies of TRAA newsletters that you don't see listed below, please forward a copy to us by email or bring it to any TRAA event!

**PAST PROJECTS**

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Check out projects and events that the TRAA has held and see how much fun we had

Projects and Events

This is what sets the TRAA apart from other clubs and organizations. You'll find us right in the water clearing obstructions from streams, measuring returning salmonids & taking scale samples for DNA analysis, education through trout hatchery tours & stream walks, being a voice for the Thames River watershed & its inhabitants and the list goes on.

Project 1: Annual Paddle and Fish

IMG1

This year's TRAA Paddle & Fish took place on July 13th and we had around a dozen participants from the TRAA, the Forest City Flyfishers and the Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association.

It was a beautiful day with the thunderstorms holding off for our after-paddle BBQ.

This year's route took us from Elgin Road 73, through the town of Dorchester to the Lion's Park just west of town.

Most, if not all of us, had never been on this stretch of the South Thames River. Our efforts were rewarded with some of the prettiest scenery that any river has to offer.

IMG2

Stan with a nice Thames River Smallie.

IMG3

Many dogs and burgers were consumed.

Special thanks to Mary (centre) who got up early in the morning just to shuttle everyone back and forth between the launch site and this park.

Also, many thanks to the Dorchester Lion's Club for providing this perfect venue for a BBQ at the end of the Paddle & Fish route.

IMG4

Paul, displaying evidence of a faulty mustard squeeze bottle, presents Ray, this year's proud recipient, with the beautiful and coveted TRAA Paddle & Fish Trophy.

Project 2: Rainbow Trout Release

VIDEO THUMBNAIL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-Z8E_1-_GU>

We have had a very successful hatch of rainbow trout this year with minimal die-off. However, it was time to say goodbye and turn them loose into their new homes. The donor stream was Dingman Creek.

Everything went smoothly and the weather was glorious.

It was also great to have a member of the London Environmental Network come out to lend a hand and learn a little bit about what the TRAA is all about.

Click on the picture to view an entertaining video of how much fun we had!

Project 3: Children’s Water Festival

IMG1

The TRAA took part in the "Public Night" portion of the event, Thursday, May 16 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

The kids cast at fish targets that we had set up and it was much fun for us as it was for the kids!

Many thanks to The Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association for providing the fish targets and the rods, reels and rubber weights.

IMG2

Well over a thousand people came through the gates before 7:30pm for this event!

Extra-big thanks to those few members who came out to lend a hand.

Project 4: Brown Trout Release

VIDEO THUMBNAIL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl0FUUaXDks&t=2s>

The brown trout were transferred from the TRAA hatchery and released at the same site on Medway Creek as in previous years.  
  
TRAA members loaded up the trout fry into the transfer tank at the hatchery site. We then proceeded to the release site north of London, Ontario.

We were met there by two of the landowners through which this section of Medway Creek flows. They also brought out a large contingent of family and friends to lend a helping hand.

This video above gives you a pretty good idea how it went.

It was a beautiful day, the stream was in perfect shape and everyone was smiling and laughing. Good times.

**CONTACT US**

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Attend group meetings, events, or just reach out for more information

Be Part of Our Family

**There's a bunch of ways to get in touch with the TRAA via email or social media.** We also meets every second Wednesday of each month. We always try to get the meetings started by 7:00pm so try to be there a few minutes beforehand. The venue is the Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association's clubhouse located just east of the Dearness Home on Southdale Road (East), on the North side of Southdale Road. The address is 790 Southdale Road East, London, Ontario or you can see the location on the map below.

If you're with a like-minded organization or group looking for more information on the TRAA and its activities. If you're an individual who would like to become involved with the activities undertaken by the TRAA, **the TRAA would like to hear from you.**