

## TRAA Elections

Yes, it seems like only last year that we voted for our TRAA Executive positions. Well that's because it *was* a year ago and so on March 12<sup>th</sup> we're gonna do it again!

The following positions will be voted upon (spaces have been left for you to write in possible nominees).

**President**

**Vice President**

**Chairman**

**Secretary**

The following Committee Chair positions will also need to be confirmed or filled:

**Trout**

**Warmwater**

**Rehabilitation**

**Social**  
(now includes Email & Telephone)

**Membership**  
(now included in Treasurer's duties)



## Contact Information

### Mailing Address

1017 Western Road  
London, Ontario N6G 1G5

### General Meetings

The TRAA meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the above address unless members are otherwise advised

### TRAA Web Site

[www.anglers.org](http://www.anglers.org)

## TRAAtoon



**I love you too Alice,  
just not in *that* way!**



### News Bites March 2008

Join us at the  
**Annual General Meeting  
March 12, 2008**

The meeting starts at  
**8:00pm sharp**

The venue is



1017 Western Road, London

## Meeting Features:

**~ ELECTIONS!!!!**

**~ Trout Egg Collection**  
– ever fish with electrical current? Beats TNT!

**~ New Walleye Reg's**  
– closures you should know about!

**~ Brook Trout Eggs?**

## **Fish Recipe**

*Sometimes you go to the larder and your "go to" ingredients are gone. Such was the case when I had a couple of steelhead fillets to barbeque a few nights ago. I "made do" with what I had and the result was so awesome, it had to be shared.*

### **Ingredients**

- ? 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- ? 1/4 cup butter, clarified and cooled
- ? 1/2 red grapefruit, juiced
- ? 1/3 cup Kraft Poppy Seed Dressing
- ? 2-4 steelhead fillets (skin on)
- ? cooking spray

### **Instructions**

Pre-heat grill on high.

Position the steelhead fillets skin side up and lightly coat with cooking spray.

Turn grill down to medium to medium high.

Place fillets skin side down on grill.

Sprinkle pepper evenly over fillets and press into flesh with spatula.

Cover grill and cook for 5-6 minutes or until fillets flake easily.

While fish is on grill, blend remaining ingredients well by hand (mixers make it too foamy).

Take steelhead fillets from grill, drizzle with dressing/butter/juice sauce and serve immediately.

This is wonderful served with a green vegetable such as asparagus, bok choy or green beans.

If you need a starch go with wild or brown rice with raisins and diced apple thrown in for the last 5 minutes of cooking.

## **Other General Meeting Stuff**

Your 2008 TRAA memberships are due! Be sure you bring a twenty to the March 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting so that you're legal to participate in the Executive Elections as a voter and/or a candidate.

## **New Walleye Reg's**

Please be reminded that the walleye season on the Thames River will be closed from the second Saturday in March until the second Saturday in April.

The only exception is an open season from the downstream side of the Middlemiss Bridge in Chatham to Lake St. Clair.

Be sure to check the MNR Web site or other MNR publications before you go fishing. Reg's can change and as always, ignorance of the law does not exempt you from punishment.

## **Work Parties**

Two Stream Rehabilitation work parties, scheduled last month, were called off because of little or no attendance. Obstructions throughout Komoka Creek that require immediate attention remain to be addressed. Discussions at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will take place to determine what folks need to show up and participate in these work parties.

We will be applying for funds from DFO to make some signage to put on Komoka Creek. These signs will display our partnerships as well as Identifying Komoka Creek as a nursery habitat improvement project.

## **Trout Committee**

John Schwindt has written a DFO proposal for identifying potential areas for stocking or re-stocking brook trout throughout the Upper Thames watershed. He sent an email to Randy Bailey asking if we would be interested in trying brook trout in our trout hatchery. If we were willing, John would try to find a few local sources for harvesting eggs as part of the project. Chances are this won't get funding but John thought he would give us a "heads up" just in case.

John is also up for helping us collect rainbow eggs in this month with his electroshocking equipment. In the meantime, we will also be asking the MNR for a permit for rainbow eggs from Sault Ste. Marie as a backup plan.

The Trout Committee Co-Chairs, Dave Jeffries and Bob Pearson, can be contacted for more information.

## **Trout Committee**

Walleye Hatchery plans are still in the works pending the award of the \$100,000.00 to the Walleye Task Force. The OFAH and the TRAA will be trying to establish a rearing pond to compliment the hatchery at Fanshawe Lake. The PGT (put-grow-take) project is to be used to enhance the walleye fishery in Fanshawe Lake and hopefully the Thames River as well.

In related news, in John Swindt's email to Randy Bailey (see Trout Committee above) he stated furthermore that he might also try to get a permit to have look at North Thames spawning walleye this spring to see how plentiful and accessible they are for future egg collections.

Stay tuned to these and other Warmwater developments, by coming to the March 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

## Social Committee

### Rainbow Trout

April 27, 2008



Rick "Ramble-on" Yeadon was the undisputed winner of the TRAA Rainbow Day by catching a white bass, a hognose sucker and by losing the steelhead of a lifetime. We're pretty sure Scott "Hiemer" Roulston set the drag for him.

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### Walleye & Pike

May 10, 2008

Members will be meeting at the Trout Hatchery at 7:00 am to try their luck in the Thames River for walleye and pike.

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### Bass

Date TBA

We will be fishing one of a few venues and transferring the bass. The venues, as well as the transfer destinations will be discussed at the May 14<sup>th</sup> and the June 11<sup>th</sup> General Meetings.



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## Membership Dues

Your 2008 memberships were due  
January 1, 2008.

If you don't pay up, you will be dropped  
from the TRAA mailing list.

Please be sure to bring your \$20.00  
to the May 14<sup>th</sup> General meeting  
or mail it to the address above.



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### News Bites May 2008

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Join us at the

**General Meeting  
May 14, 2008**

The meeting starts at  
**8:00pm sharp**

The venue is



1017 Western Road, London

## Stuff to know:

- **Brown Trout Release**  
– pictures and everything!
- **It's Fishin' Season!**  
– rainbow derby  
– walleye derby  
– bass derby
- **Walleye PGT News**

## Brown Trout Release

Approximately 40,000 brown trout fingerlings were released into Dingman Creek on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thanks to all the volunteers who were able to come out and help. Special thanks go out to Rick and Sandra for hauling the transfer tank in their brand new truck!



*Rick & Sandra work the nets from both sides.*



*Rick drops the brown trout fry into the buckets used to transport the fry to the transfer tank.*

## Brown Trout Release

*continued ...*



*Moving the fry from the transfer tank after arriving at Dingman Creek.*



*Lawson (left) and Rick "acclimate" the fry before releasing them into Dingman Creek. Acclimating the fry to the stream temperature minimizes the shock to the fry once they are released.*

## Trout Committee

The brown trout were all released into Dingman Creek on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There were many volunteers so the whole process went smoothly and quickly. Thanks to all those who attended.

The rainbow trout are already at the "swim up" stage and are congregating in the baffled fry trap. In fact, a light sprinkling of starter food demonstrated that they are already feeding as well! Those members who are part of the Trout Hatchery rotation are urged to start moving the rainbow fry into the circular tank.

The Trout Committee Co-Chairs, Dave Jeffries and Bob Pearson, can be contacted for more information.

## Warmwater Committee

The PGT (put-grow-take) project that involves a possible Walleye Hatchery and rearing pond operated by the TRAA is still alive but the momentum seems to have slowed.

There is an assessment of the current state of the walleye population in Fanshawe Lake that has to take place before the project moves forward. If the assessment shows that there is already a self-sustaining population in the lake, its candidacy for a PGT program will be effectively terminated. So far, there has been no date established for this assessment.



## Bass Opener

The TRAA has always had something going on the opening day of bass season and this year will be no exception.

In the past we have fished private ponds and have transferred the bass to Sharon Creek Reservoir. There has been tentative discussion about doing this sort of thing again this year.

One of the venues mentioned was the Aquagolf facility near Komoka. Apparently the owner is making modifications that may involve filling in some or all of the pond and he would like as many bass as possible removed.

Another possibility discussed is to fish the ponds at Doc Wilson's farm, a venue we have fished a few times in the past. Come out to the June 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting to find out where we'll be fishing the bass opener!



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## Guest Speaker

TRAA member Bill Valberg will be the guest speaker at the June 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Bill has been a competitor in a number of professional bass tournaments as an amateur. He has learned a lot fishing with some of the big names in professional bass angling and he will be sharing some of this knowledge of tackle, techniques and methods.

With bass season fast approaching, you won't want to miss Bill's talk that will surely help you put more bronzes on your line. See you at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting!



## News Bites June 2008

Join us at the next

### General Meeting June 11, 2008





The meeting starts at  
**8:00pm sharp**

The venue is



1017 Western Road, London

## Inside:

-  **Trout Releases** – browns gone, bows to go!
-  **Guest Speaker** – Bill knows bass!
-  **Fishing Meetings** – summertime, and the fishin' is easy...
-  **Rehab' Projects** – we'll be kickin' it in to gear in August!

## A License to Run

A couple of young guys were fishing at their special pond off the beaten track when out of the bushes jumped the Conservation Officer! Immediately, one of the boys threw his rod down and started running through the woods and hot on his heels came the CO.

After about a half mile, the guy stopped and stooped over with his hands on his thighs to catch his breath and the CO finally caught up to him.

"Let's see yer fishin license, boy!" the warden gasped.

With that, the guy pulled out his wallet and gave the CO a valid fishing license.

"Well, son," said the CO.

"You must be as dumb as a box of rocks!"

You don't have to run from me if you have a valid license!"

"Yes sir," replied the young fellow. "But my friend back there, well, he don't have one..."

## No Cents in Fishing

Two redneck guys go on a fishing trip. They rent all the equipment: the reels, the rods, the wading suits, the rowboat, the car, and even a cabin in the woods. They spend a fortune. The first day they go fishing, but they don't catch anything. The same thing happens on the second day, and on the third day. It goes on like this until finally, on the last day of their vacation, one of the men catches a fish. As they're driving home they're really depressed. One guy turns to the other and says, "*Do you realize that this one lousy fish we caught cost us fifteen hundred dollars?*" The other guy says, "*Wow! It's a good thing we didn't catch any more!*"

## June's our Last Meeting!

- until September, that is ...

Anybody who has been a TRAA member for any length of time knows that we do not have "formal" General Meetings during the months of July and August.

The reasons are many but mainly nobody is interested in sitting in a stuffy old mansion when they could be fishing. So that's what we do – we go fishing instead!

This year the TRAA "Fishing Meetings" will be on July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>. How about July for smallmouth bass and August for carp? We will be deciding on the venues at the June 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting (yes, at the stuffy mansion!), so be there!

## TRAAtoon



"Don't you think it's a little - I don't know - spooky that the boat rental guy keeps shoving us out to the middle of the lake and then hauling us back?"

## Trout Committee

The rainbow trout fry in the TRAA trout hatchery have reached a good size and are ready to be released. Members may recall that some of these fry were hatched from wild eggs that were gathered by the TRAA from adults returning to Komoka Creek courtesy of John Schwint of the UTRCA and his electrofishing equipment. They will be released on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Members interested in helping out should be at the trout hatchery at 9:00 am.

There has been no stream chosen as of yet for the release of these trout but Dingman, Oxbow and Komoka Creeks have all been discussed. The final decision will be made at the June 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

Contact Dave Jeffries or Bob Pearson if you have questions or an interest in helping out with the TRAA Trout Committee.

## Rehab' Committee

The Rehabilitation Committee will be active once again starting in August. This is when low flow levels exist and we will not be harming any "young of the year" rainbow and brown trout.

There are several projects that need to be addressed. Lunker structures are to be installed along the cornfield bend and the bank below the TRAA trout hatchery needs to be stabilized. We will be discussing these at the June 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. If you have some ideas, please attend and offer your suggestions.

Contact Paul Holmes if you have any questions or would like to help out with the TRAA Rehab' Committee.

## Trout Hatchery

The TRAA trout hatchery has been tweaked, cleaned and is ready to receive this fall's allotment of brown trout eggs.

The incubation trays have been raised slightly with the theory that fewer fry will become trapped. This has happened in the past with some marginal mortality (but every fishy counts!).

The fry trap – it's that dark box that the tray system empties into – has received a new coat of paint on the inside surfaces. This time we went with green instead of black so that it's easier to see the fry when we go to transfer them to the circular growth tank. The stairs were power washed to remove the slippery algae that had built up. Members are still cautioned to beware of slippery conditions caused by ice (sometimes the layer is so thin you can't see it).

The only thing that didn't get done this year was the painting of the exterior of the hatchery. By the time it was power washed and dry, the weather turned too cold to paint. Members of the trout hatchery rotation met at the hatchery for their orientation on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. There are a few new members so the instruction was in depth and was also printed on handouts for all.

The eggs will be arriving from Sault Ste. Marie within the next couple of weeks so everyone involved is excited – it's just like Christmas!!

Interested in helping out or need more information? Contact Dave Jeffries or Bobby Pearson.



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## Guest Speaker

TRAA President Randy Bailey will be sharing some of his winter steelheading tactics with members at the December 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Randy somehow manages to catch fish in all kinds of river conditions and weather, so this mini-seminar will be very informative.

While Randy is primarily a float fisherman, many of his "tricks of the trade" are adaptable to other forms of angling.

Outside of ice fishing, winter steelheading may be the only opportunity to chase a fish for the next few months, so join us in learning how to be successful doing it.



## News Bites December 2008

Join us at the next

### General Meeting December 10, 2008

The meeting starts at  
**8:00pm sharp**

The venue is



1017 Western Road, London

## Inside:

🐟 **Trout Hatchery** – things are gearin' up for fall!

🐟 **Guest Speaker** – Randy does Steelies!

🐟 **Springbank Dam**  
– the never-ending saga of London's ugliest money-pit.

🐟 **Another Thames Plan**  
– a report on the Thames Valley Corridor Plan

## Thames Valley Corridor Plan

On Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, Randy Bailey, Archie Graham, Dave Jefferies and Paul Noble attended an open house for the Thames Valley Corridor Plan. This was covered in the previous Saturday's edition of the London Free Press. Until then, none of us had heard of it.

The meeting was well attended and included folks from the Forest City Fly Fishers, the Thames Valley Trail Association, boaters, local politicians and general citizenry. The following is from the City of London Web site:

*The Thames Valley Corridor (TVC) Plan is a long range vision document that will address key land planning and management issues along the river, through London, including:*

- Continued management of the floodplain and other hazards
- Improved protection, preservation and rehabilitation of the natural heritage system ie. Aquatic habitats, riparian and flood plain habitats, valley slope habitats
- enhanced public access and recreation opportunities
- management of urban development and infrastructure works in and along the corridor
- role of the corridor in support of urban water cycles (stormwater, wastewater, drinking water) and the connection with other natural areas

We will be discussing this at the December 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. To bring yourself up to speed, go to:

[http://www.london.ca/d.aspx?s=/Parks\\_and\\_Natural\\_Areas/ThamesValleyCorridor.htm](http://www.london.ca/d.aspx?s=/Parks_and_Natural_Areas/ThamesValleyCorridor.htm)

## Fishy Recipe

### Kenny's Rainbow Poached in Vodka

#### Ingredients

2 lbs	rainbow trout fillets
40 ounces	vodka

#### Instructions

Drink a shot of vodka.  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.  
Drink a shot of vodka.  
Place fillets in a glass baking pan.  
Pour one shot of vodka over the fillets and one down your throat. Repeat until fillets are half submerged.  
Place in oven and pass out at kitchen table for about 45 minutes.  
Wake up an hour and a half later, turn off oven, throw out over-cooked fish and go to bed.  
Wake up at 4:30am and make a cheese & ketchup sandwich. Enjoy with a smoke and a shot or two of vodka.

### Fishin' with Uncle Dunk Jeffries



"I've been falling in so often lately, I figured I might as well start taking a look around."

## Springbank Dam, etc., etc.

The continuing saga that is Springbank Dam has virtually taken on a life of its own. Nobody in charge seems to know what to do this controversial cash cow.

The Consultant's Report: The City of London can't seem to come to a decision on what to do next despite having a \$30,000 consultant's report and having closed door meetings with that report. The CoL's answer is to withhold the report despite the fact that it was funded with taxpayer money.

Post Construction Monitoring: Dr. Chris Bunt's monitoring of fish passage this year was delayed months only to be released a couple of weeks ago. Apparently there were some issues and it had to be re-worked (?). Nonetheless, there is some eye-popping information in this report that we will be discussing at the December 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Members are urged to go to <http://www.biotactic.com/springbank%20dam%20fish%20movement.htm>

and review Dr. Bunt's report.

Citizens Starting to Wake Up: The normally apathetic John Q. Londoner has started to take an interest and make his, and her, voice heard. People are talking, writing and petitioning about leaving the dam open or outright removal. Folks are starting to see the beauty of a natural free-flowing river with vegetative re-growth of the genuine riparian sections that are normally submerged under a toxic stink-pond for the summer.

Lotsa More Stuff: There are many more interesting developments and talking points to this dam debacle, so come to the December 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting and join in the discussions.