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January 23 2019

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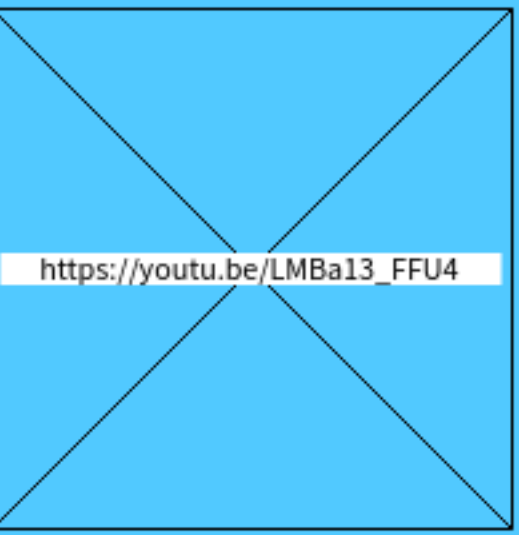
Thames river Anglers Association

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Welome to the TRAA

Dedication Today for Tomorrow

Our Mission Statement:
"For the enhancement, protection and promotion of a viable, multi-species fishery within the Thames River watershed."



Stream Habitat Work Party

Took place on Saturday, October 13, 2018
A few TRAA members cleared a number of fallen trees and other blockages on October 13th.
Dan Shinkelshoek made a video of the proceedings and it's worth a look so click on the picture to view.

If you have further questions about TRAA stream habitat projects and events, please come out to the TRAA General Meeting on Wednesday, November 14th or Contact Us.

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.



Special Thanks:

Over the past couple of years the folks at Melchers Construction Ltd have offered up their beautiful boardroom for TRAA executive meetings. It's an ideal space with all the amenities required for us to accomplish all the "behind the scenes" work of the TRAA. Many thanks go out to the continued support of Melchers Construction Ltd.

Members of the trout hatchery rotation know the woes we've had with lighting in the hatchery. Even with larger fixtures installed a few years ago, it was still frustrating on days when the mercury dipped below -15C and the fluorescent technology just teased us with its dull flicker. Enter Mike Jeffries of Guillevin Greentech in London with nice set of bright and dependable (and new!) LED fixtures. Once they were installed it was like working in well-appointed laboratory.

The TRAA voted unanimously to re-name the TRAA trout hatchery honouring Keith Wales' memory and his unselfish support of the TRAA's work in the London area, in particular Komoka Creek. Special thanks go out to Muma Manufacturing in St. Thomas for donating the beautiful laser-cut aluminum sign.

After cleaning up the area around the TRAA shed and trout hatchery, our trailer was quite full and needed to be emptied. A big 'thank you' goes out to Rick Vandersluis and Mike Seabrook of Try Recycling who allowed the TRAA to empty the trailer at their facility free of charge.

Before we could take the trailer to Try Recycling, we needed to get the spare tire for the trailer fixed. Pat Devincenzo, proprietor of Angling Sports, offered to get it repaired. Turns out the tire needed replacing and Pat took care of it.

Angling Sports also supplied cards for all TRAA members that entitle them to a discount equal to the tax on anything in the store.

Thanks Pat, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

TRAA Executives

President	Rob Huber Vice President	Paul Holmes
Secretary		
Jeremy Beaton Treasurer	Randy Bailey Chairperson	Adam Bengen

TRAA Volunteer Committee Chairs:

Trout	Dan Schinkelshoek
Warmwater	
Pud Hunter	

Habitat:

Jeremy Beaton	Paul Holmes	Randy Bailey	Public Relations
Rob Huber	Randy Bailey	Paul Noble	

Hatchery Management:

Adam Bengen	Randy Bailey
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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, its challenges, its recreational opportunities and its vital importance to our community.

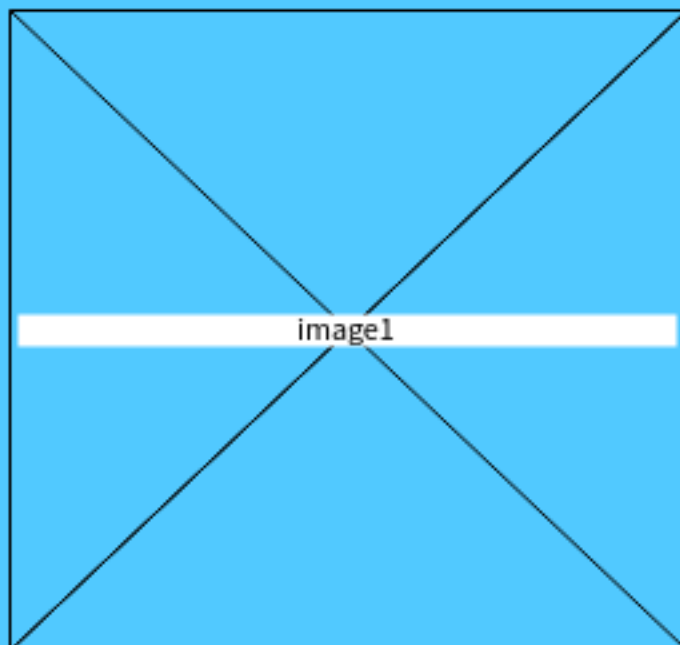


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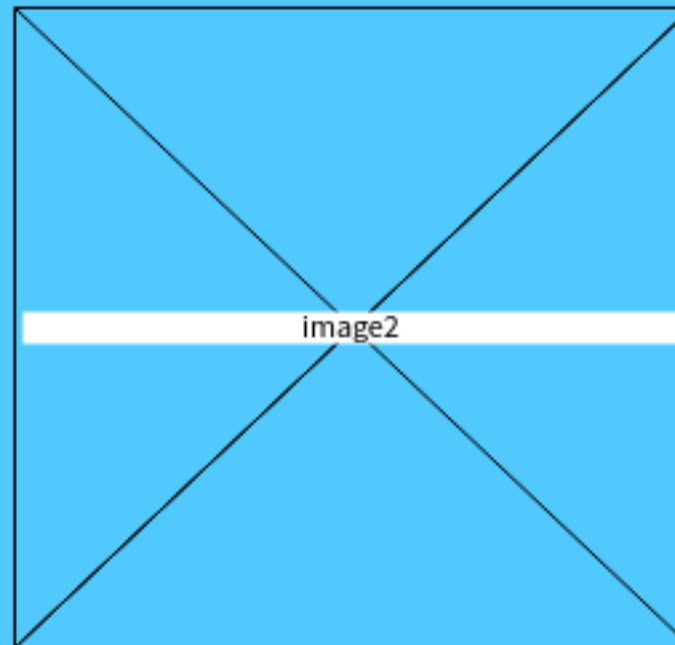


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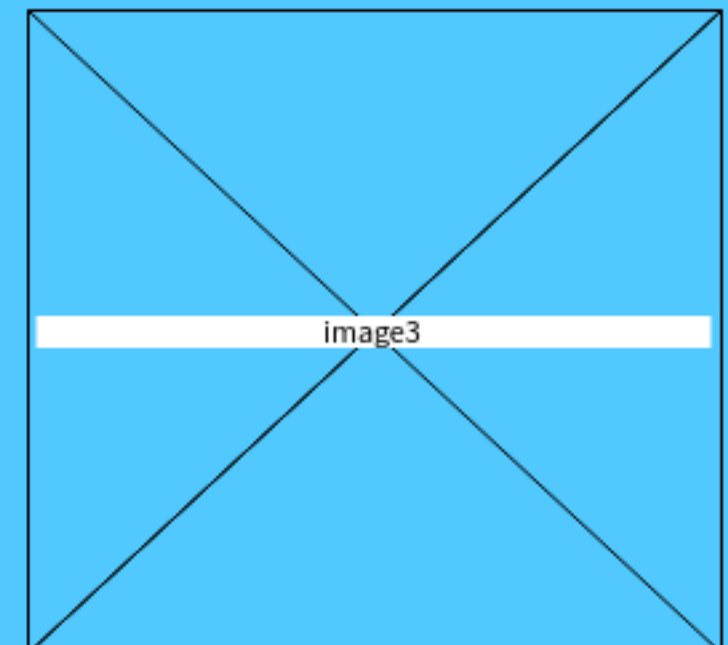


image3

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.



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TRAA Projects

"Hands-on Environmentalism" is what we do ...

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.

Current and Past TRAA Projects

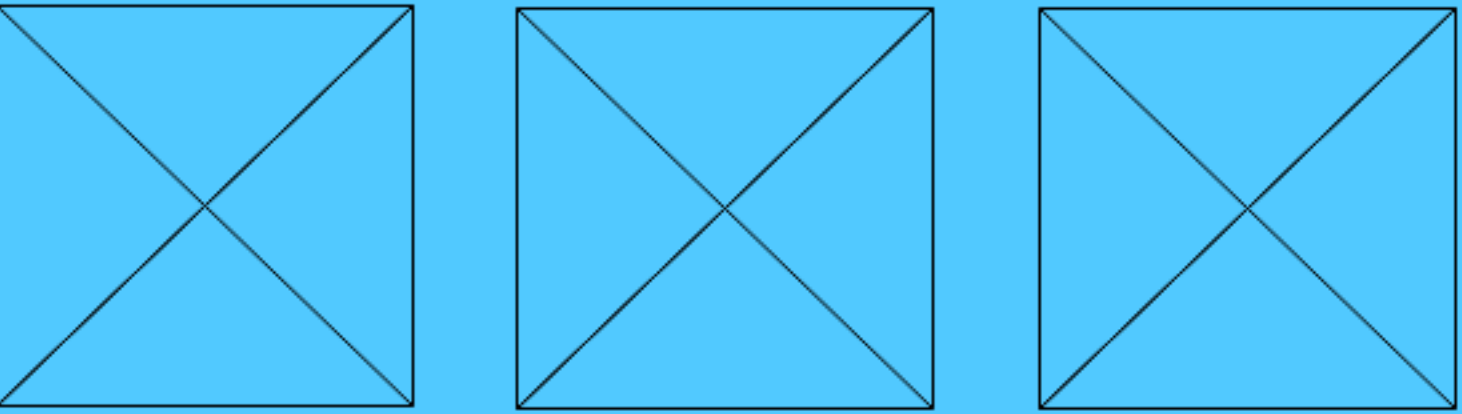
TRAA Salmonid Monitoring . Spring 2012

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.

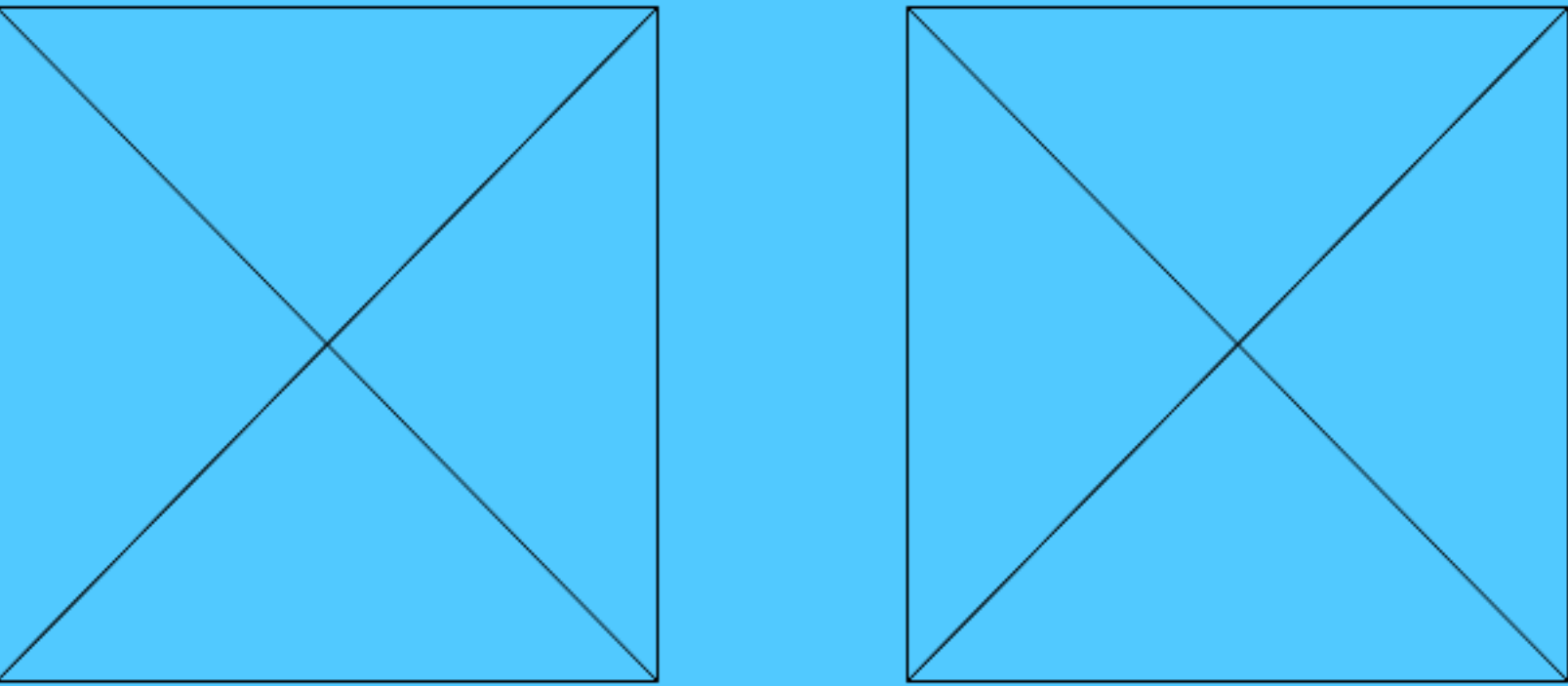
TRAA Trout Hatchery



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.

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



The tray-style of egg incubation in the picture on the left 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.

The picture on the left shows the whole operation with the trays on the right side and the 6' diameter circular growth tank. Note the green automatic feeder hanging over the tank. This was of TRAA design and manufacture and outperforms any of the commercial feeders we encountered.

The water source originates from an underground spring uphill from the hatchery. The water is collected in an above-ground horizontal cistern that feeds a 4-inch source pipe. The head pressure created by the elevation drop provides all the water required without dependence on pumps and power.



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TRAA Newsletter

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.

Take a trip down memory lane by browsing our past newsletters

2011:

first quarter

2010:

April

2009:

March, May, June, August, September, October, November, December

2008:

March, May, June, December

2007:

January, February, March, April, May, June, November, December

2006:

June, October, December

2005:

Spring, Summer

2004:

Winter

2003:

Spring

2001:

Spring, Summer, Fall/ Winter, Winter/ Spring

2000:

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

1999:

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

1997:

Summer, Fall, Winter

1996:

Winter

1986:

October



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TRAA Links

Sites of Interest to the 'ConserFishinist'

Conservation

Carolinian Canada - Carolinian Canada's diverse network advances a strategic 'Big Picture' vision for healthy landscapes and a green future in Canada's deep south. Friends of the Thames / Thames River Cleanup - The Friends of the Thames has been organising and promoting the Annual Thames River Cleanup every spring for the past 14 years. Environmentally concerned volunteers, landowners, clubs, organizations and municipalities have come together during Earth week to help clean up portions of the Thames River watershed areas. Check out their Contacts page to find out who or what organization is cleaning up your favourite section of the Thames River. Nature London - Nature London undertakes a variety of projects to promote environmental awareness, enhance habitat and protect natural areas. MFN members participate in the Christmas Bird Count, the annual Butterfly Count and other initiatives which encourage the study of local natural history.

North Shore Steelhead Association - The primary concern of the founding members was the protection and enhancement of the north shore migratory Rainbow Trout (Steelhead) fishery, but their foresight led to the inclusion of all coldwater species in our constitution. This, by default, includes all species that use Lake Superior tributaries in their life cycle.

Ontario Streams - To promote the protection and rehabilitation of Ontario's rivers and streams through education and community action.

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters - You may think you know who they are and what they do, but check the site, you may be surprised!

Trout Unlimited Canada - To conserve, protect and restore Canada's freshwater resources and their watersheds for current and future generations.

Conservation Authorities

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Essex Region Conservation Authority
Grand River Conservation Authority
Halton Region Conservation Authority
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Long Point Region Conservation Authority
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Metro Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Governmental Entities

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Support These Local Fishing and Related Retailers

Angling Sports - 681 Highbury Ave N, London, ON N5W 4L4 (519-649-7429)
Lambeth Rod & Tackle - 2404 Main Street, London, ON N6P 1R2 (519-652-5598)
John's Fly Materials - 96 Rectory Street, London, ON N5Z 1Z9 (226-270-9029)
Angling Outfitters - 684460 Road 68, Woodstock, ON N4S 7V7 (519-539-5494)

Fishing and Related Links

Ian Colin James - This late great great friend of the Thames River and the TRAA was a Fly Fisherman, Tyer, Guide, Instructor, Author, College Prof, Artist, Raconteur, and Man About Town.
Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association - Quite likely the oldest and still one of the most viable conservation clubs in the London area. It's also where the TRAA holds their meetings.
Forest City Fly Fishing Club - Learn everything about all things fly fishing. Also great friends and supporters of the TRAA.
Forest City Bassmasters - Activities include hosting fishing tournaments, guest speakers and events, and conservation activities with a focus on fun, friendship, learning and friendly competition.
Real-Time Hydrometric Data - Explore real-time river levels and flows (discharges) before you plan your fishing or canoe/kayak trip.
Match Angling Club of Ontario - An interesting site with lots of info' on match angling, a growing aspect of our sport in North America.
SOTTO Fly Fishing Club - This club organizes a series of fun fly fishing competitions across Ontario, one of which is the Thames River Open.
Thames River Paddling Routes - The aim of this website is to create a single source for accessing information for paddling the Thames River.

Please Note:

The links appearing on this page have been included for the interest of TRAA members and other like-minded individuals. We do our best to monitor what these sites offer as content. If you are concerned with any aspect of any of the linked sites, please contact the Webmaster. Sites linked to this page that are deemed unsuitable for any reason at the sole discretion of the TRAA, will be removed without notice or explanation. Like-minded organizations wishing to have their sites linked to this page may contact the Webmaster. Your site's suitability for linking to this page is a decision made solely and strictly by the TRAA.



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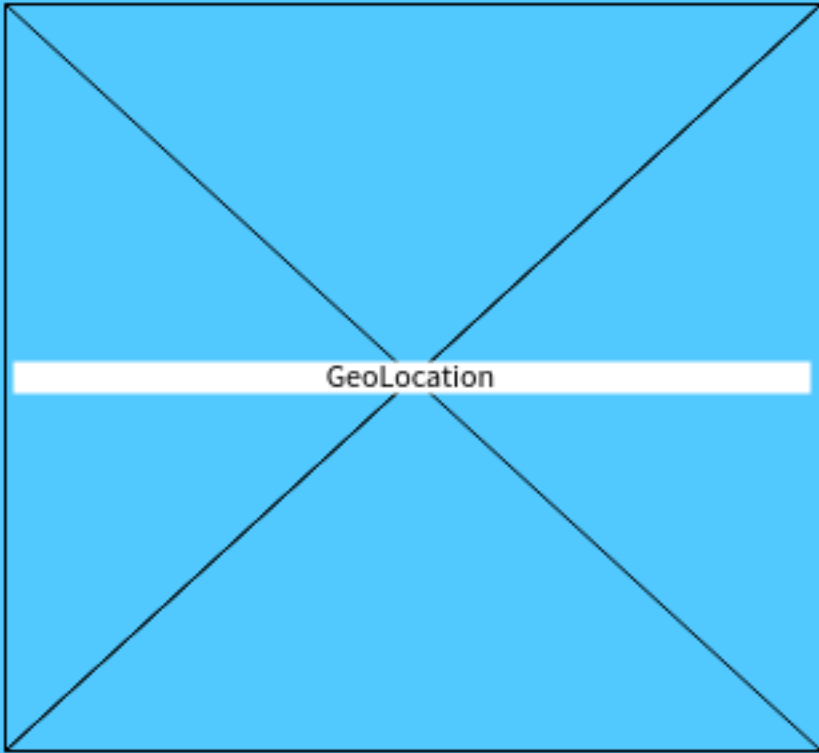
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Contact The TRAA

If you're with a like-minded organization or group looking for more information on the TRAA and its activities or ...
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.

Email the TRAA at traa@anglers.org
Check out our Facebook page!

TRAA Mail
Send all those cards and letters (and cheques!) to:
Thames River Anglers Association
2202 Coronation Drive
London, Ontario
N6G 0B9



Come and talk to us at a TRAA General Meeting

Guests are welcome!
The TRAA 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.
Note: Every now and then we have "off-site" meetings. For example, the July and August meetings are "fishing meetings" so we won't be at WOFGPA clubhouse. Stay on top of these changes by visiting this Web site often.