

Thames River Anglers Association News

Dedication Today for Tomorrow

Summer 1997

Volume 3

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traatoon!**

TRAA Membership Form

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

Committee Casts

Trout - Randy Bailey, 457-7972

The hatchery is vacant this summer but will be back in operation in the fall of 1997 with a new batch of brown trout eggs. The TRAA was unable to gain an allotment of rainbow trout eggs this year because the crazy spring weather caused a sporadic steelhead run.

The TRAA hatchery was the victim of a break and enter this past spring. A masked intruder accessed the premises via the open eaves, got into the trout food and made a general mess of things. The prowler is still at large, so steps are being taken to install soffits and fascia to prevent an encore performance. The perpetrator is described as being fur-bearing with a black mask and ringed tail.

Rehabilitation - George Hoy, 432-9079

The Rehabilitation Committee has already put in over 150 hours of work this year. This includes the mulching of all of the trees planted around the Wales pond, the clearing of access trails and the cleanup of instream dead-falls, debris and detrimental overgrowth to restore proper flow in Komoka Creek.

Warm Water - Lawson Jones, 451-4106; Michael Mathews, 631-1444;

Kevin Lemesurier, 451-3658; Kevin Elliot, 474-0533; Wes Adam, 451-1043.

Len and Janet Robinson, owners of the Komoka Aqua Driving Range, wanted the TRAA to remove some largemouth bass from their facility. Michael Mathews and Lawson Jones of the TRAA Warm Water Committee met with the Robinsons and made arrangements for a bass transfer to take place on Saturday, June 28, 1997. TRAA members fished from 5:30 am to 9:00 am and managed to fill the CFIP transfer tank with 95 largemouth bass. These bass were then transferred to Sharon Creek Reservoir and then released.

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

There is now a full set of slides and printed matter on TRAA history and activities that is available for use by members wishing to do a presentation to other organisations and special interest groups. Please contact Les, Jim or any of the executive for assistance.

TRAA hats, crests and pewter key chains are still for sale at very reasonable prices at most meetings and events. Get yours before they're gone!

You can make more room in your "blue box" by bringing your old fishing and outdoor magazines to the general meetings. They will be redistributed to appreciative school kids.

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

Thanks go out to the very few who submitted material for this newsletter, particularly George Hoy and Randy Bailey. One of George's submissions, for the sake of balance, was not used because it was very close in subject matter to the "Soapbox" article.

If you are a TRAA member, then you are a reporter for this publication. We expect a deluge of material for the fall issue because everyone has had a full summer of experiences and reflections to draw on. Throw anything my way. I'm an editor; it's my job to sort through and make sense of it all!

More Nibbles & Bites

TRAA Approved - "Community Fisheries Improvement Program" Funding

The TRAA has once again been approved for funding to continue our rehabilitation of fish habitat on Komoka Creek. The TRAA's 1997 allotment was less than what we had expected, but we should still be able to accomplish a great deal this year.

There was also another letter from Chris Hodgson, Minister of Natural Resources trumpeting the fact that the CFIP/CWIP funding had been increased to \$1,000,000. This will have a positive effect on all of the grass-roots, community based groups like the TRAA.

Scrambled Eggs - Unappetizing Food for Thought

Although most of us know the detrimental effects of wading in streams, you may be surprised by the findings of biologists with the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit. They studied the mortality of cutthroat, brown and rainbow trout eggs and pre-emergent fry from fertilization to emergence. A 165 pound person wading twice daily killed 83 per cent of the eggs and pre-emergent fry of cutthroat, 89 per cent of brown trout and 96 per cent of rainbow trout.

The researchers also noted that regulations to limit harvest of adult fish cannot restore a population when there is excessive mortality due to wading. They say that both harvest regulations and restrictions on wading are needed, especially where spawning habitat is limited or where many anglers wade.

Roberts, B.C. and R.G. White, 1992. Effects of angler wading on survival of trout eggs and pre-emergent fry. N. Amer. J. Fish. Mngt. 12(3):450-459.

New Walleye Size Regulations

A new regulation that sets out the size of walleye an angler may keep is now in place for the Ontario waters of Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and the Thames River and its tributaries from Lake St. Clair to the Springbank Park dam in London. The catch and possession limit is still six walleye, but none can be between 17 inches (43 cm) and 25 inches (63.5 cm) in length. Only one walleye can be greater than 25 inches (63.5 cm).

For those anglers with a Conservation License, the above slot size regulations apply to the two walleye catch and possession limit.

The current edition of the 1997 Ontario Sport Fishing Regulations Summary is incorrect on this issue and the error will be corrected in the next edition of the 1997 Summary due out early this summer.

For more information you can contact John Cooper, Lake Erie Management Unit in London at (519) 661-2730. Your TRAA executive has the OMNR News Release announcing this new regulation.

The Quotable Angler

"Don't bother tryin' to fling a doughball for carp with a baitcaster 'cause the darn stuff'll just fly off yer hook." Jim Romphf - TRAA member and a man experienced with the limitations of fishing tackle.

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 at 8:00 PM on August 13, 1997, which, as always, is the second Wednesday of the month. Guests are welcome.

The presenter at the August 13th general meeting will be a representative from the Upper Thames Conservation Authority to speak about what the Canadian Heritage River status means and how it will benefit the Thames River watershed. There were a lot of questions at the July general meeting regarding this issue, so we are expecting quite a few of you out to this meeting.

The September 10th general meeting will feature Paul Noble and Randy Bailey who will recap the presentation that they did at River Rendezvous '97 in June. This will benefit newer members who are interested in the history and the activities of the TRAA over the past 10 years. Even with combined experience of 17 years with the TRAA, Randy and Paul found there was quite a lot that they had forgotten or did not even know - so there's something for everyone!

"A Gathering of Friends"

The first annual "Gathering of Friends" will take place at the Sharon Creek Conservation Area near Delaware, Ontario on August 22, 23 & 24, 1997. Sponsored by Friends of Sharon Creek, this event features a family campout (unserviced sites only), canoeing demonstrations, fly fishing and outdoor exhibits, story telling around a bonfire and much more! This is an open air event (no shelters). Bring what you need to be self sufficient. Drinking water and portable toilets will be on site.

The "Gathering of Friends" is being held to raise awareness of the unique properties of the Sharon Creek Conservation Area and to encourage community involvement in its preservation as a natural area. Donations for the weekend festivities will be accepted at the gate. For more information please contact: Friends of Sharon Creek, 192 Wellington Street, Delaware, Ontario N0L 1E0.

Telephone: (519) 652-5562 or Fax: (519) 679-6266.

Canuck Chinook

(a recipe)

This recipe is extremely easy, healthy and even your most critical dinner guests will be impressed with your culinary prowess. It also has a uniquely Canadian distinction. Serves two diners.

Ingredients: 12 ounces of Chinook (or Atlantic) salmon - 2 fillets
1 1/2 cups of real maple syrup
1/2 cup of low sodium soy sauce
4 teaspoons of freshly ground black pepper

Directions: Mix the maple syrup and soy sauce in a shallow glass or ceramic bowl that will just fit the fillets. Place fish in mixture so that they are covered. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for several hours (all day if you have it), turning fillets every hour. Remove salmon from marinade and pat all sides with ground pepper. Brush the cooking grid with olive oil. Grill directly over hot coals for 6 minutes, turn for 5 more minutes and serve with grilled veggies. If there are no hot coals or barbecue handy, you can bake the salmon at 500 degrees F for 7 minutes (be warned, it may be smoky!). Goes with a good dry Chablis. Bon Appetit!

Soapbox (Not Necessarily the Opinion of the TRAA)

The Cost of Being Uninformed - by Landon Knett

For the most part, anglers tend to be content pursuing their sport as a means to leave behind the difficulties and the controversies of everyday life. A day fishing is an opportunity to set aside personal and societal woes to clear one's head by communing with nature. Yet even a day on the water with rod in hand will not excuse anyone from having to reflect on, and defend this activity we currently take for granted. One day you will be confronted on the stream or on the sidewalk by people professing to be upholding the rights and feelings of all animals. This will not be an isolated incident. The size of this band of lunatics dressed up as dancing, marching, talking and singing animals has already reached "Disney-esque" proportions.

What will you say? What will you do? These are questions that you must ask yourself in the most serious manner. Having an intelligent response backed by facts is the only method that, in the end, may subdue these zealots. Using the same guerrilla tactics as they do or simply telling them to "F - OFF" will only serve to re-enforce their promotion of us as coarse, uncivilised brutes.

Organisations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) are fringe groups that are approaching mainstream status. Outside of being well funded and well connected, their strengths lie in the systematic emotional exploitation of an essentially uninformed public. Their weakness, as is the case with most hysterical entities, is that their arguments are often out of context, factually flawed and often, simple fabrications.

Groups like PETA have already convinced a large number of unapprised people by using these dubious methods and are banking on an effect not unlike "The Emperor's New Clothes" to expand their ranks. However, as is always the case in these situations, the facts and a willingness to present them calmly, usually exposes the nakedness and shame of such "snake oil salesmanship".

Firstly, we should find out exactly what the agenda(s) of these organisations is and why they exist. It is fruitless going into a discussion not knowing what the discussion is about. Secondly, we must talk amongst ourselves - individually, at a grass roots level and finally as a cohesive group. PETA and their ilk are very organised and so we must rebut as a structured union of concerned anglers. This is not an option; it is a necessity. The natural environment that groups like the TRAA have taken volunteer stewardship of is at stake.

Another point to remember is that opinions and a respect for the truth begin to form at a very early age. My four year old son recently asked if a fish felt pain when hooked and I honestly told him that I did not know. This was understood and accepted because even at four years old he already realises that nobody has all of the answers. On that same level, he also trusts that when I do have an answer, he can believe it to be true.

And the score is: Daddy, 1; silly stranger in a fish costume handing out misinformation, 0.

traatoon!



The combination of Randy's new 13 1/2 foot float rod and his aggressive hook-setting technique allowed him to eliminate having to clean and cook his catch!

TRAA Memberships

Please use the handy form below to join the TRAA. You can mail it in with a cheque or money order (remember not to send cash in the mail) or you can come to the general meeting and pay your dues there - cash readily accepted. Your immediate family is included with your membership!

Name: _____	Renewal? Y___ N___
Address: _____	City: _____
Postal Code: _____	Telephone: _____
TRAA Membership Dues: \$15.00 + *Donation: _____ = Total: _____	
*Receipt issued for donations.	

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! Noooo, 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!



Thames River Anglers Association News

Dedication Today for Tomorrow

Winter 1997

Volume 1

Highlights

**1997 TRAA Executives & Committee Chairpeople
Event Reports
Committee Bulletins
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.

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