

TRAA Elections

Well Stevie Harper dodged a bullet and we were spared a trip to the polls this past year. Having said that an election might heat up the deep freeze of winter so we're gonna have our own on Wednesday, March 11th.

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)

Public Relations

Webmaster



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

A Great Place to Start

You want to get more involved and take your TRAA membership to a higher level but you're just not ready to take on that Executive role.

Hey, here's a great idea: volunteer to take over one of the Committee Chair positions. It mostly requires being able to come up with some ideas, being a bit organized and knowing when to ask for help – 'cause help is always there!

Another option is to ask a current Chair if they'd like to have a Co-Chair to help out and learn the ropes. Bet they'll say yes.

Try it – it's a great place to start!



News Bites March 2009

Join us at the
**Annual General Meeting
March 11, 2009**

The meeting starts at
8:00pm sharp

The venue is



1017 Western Road, London

Meeting Features:

- 🐟 ELECTIONS!!!!**
- 🐟 Trout Hatchery Report**
– one of the best success rates in years!
- 🐟 New Blood Needed**
– it's as easy as saying yes to a committee chair!
- 🐟 Membership Dues**
– yes, it's time to cough up that measly twenty!

Fish Recipe

– Perch-a-licious!

It's been a pretty good year for ice fishing (except, of course, the TRAA outing) so a perch recipe might come in handy. Here's a somewhat traditional one that's dead easy for those who might be a bit challenged in the culinary department and it's delicious. This recipe usually calls for the fish to be deep-fried but it can be fried in about 3/4 inch of oil in a large, heavy skillet. Also, the original recipe called for perch fillets, any firm, white fillets such as walleye, whitefish, etc. will work.

Ingredients

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 1/2 cups crushed saltine crackers (about 45 crackers)
- 2 lbs perch fillets
- vegetable oil (for frying)

Directions

Place beaten eggs and saltine cracker crumbs in separate shallow bowls or pie tins.

Dip fillets into eggs, then coat with crumbs; let stand for 5 minutes.

In a heavy, deep skillet, or electric frying pan, heat oil (about 3/4 to 1 inch of oil) to 375°.

Fry fillets, a few at a time, for 2 minutes on each side or until fish is golden brown and flakes easily.

Drain on a rack over paper towels. If you're making lots of fish place the rack in a 225° oven while you're cooking the remaining batches.

Yum.

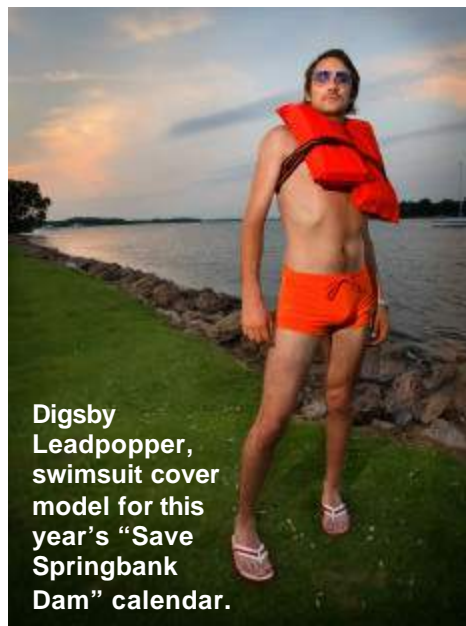
Other General Meeting Stuff

Your 2008 TRAA memberships are due! Be sure you bring a twenty to the March 11th Annual General Meeting so that you're legal to participate in the Executive Elections as a voter and/or a candidate.

The first SETC meeting took place on Tuesday, February 24th and we were there. Lawson Jones and Archie Graham will fill us in on what happened at this re-formed committee.

Make sure you think about whom you would like to see run for the Executive positions of the TRAA for 2009. You can jot down their names in the spaces provided on the back flap of this issue of *News Bites*.

TRAAtoon



Digsby Leadpopper, swimsuit cover model for this year's "Save Springbank Dam" calendar.

Trout Committee

According to Dave Jeffries, this fall's batch of brown trout has been a resounding success. Elevating the trays slightly made a big difference in sac-fry survivability.

All members of the trout hatchery rotation have been very diligent in making the rounds or having the responsibility to make sure there's a substitute when they can't make it. These and other smaller details has made this one of the best batches in terms of low mortality that we've had in years.

All members are invited to suggest possible donor streams into which these brown trout fry can be released. Any stream considered will be a tributary of the Thames River and must be downstream of Fanshawe and Hunt Dams.

Rainbow trout eggs will be a part of the TRAA trout hatchery scene within a month or so.

It's a tradition for the TRAA to try and gather some of the eggs and milt from rainbows returning to Komoka Creek and this year will be no different.

We will be contacting John Schwindt of the UTRCA to come out to Komoka Creek with his electro-fishing gear over the next few weeks. If you have not been involved in one of these outings, ask anyone who's done it, it's worth getting signed up!

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

Guest Speaker

- Jeff Brick

Jeff Brick is Coordinator, Hydrology and Regulatory Services, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA). Jeff is a graduate of the University of Guelph and he has been with the UTRCA for 18 years.

He coordinates the UTRCA's Flood Control and Environmental Planning programs. Jeff is a Registered Professional Planner and in addition to his duties at UTRCA, he is also employed as a part time faculty member at Fanshawe College teaching in the GIS and Urban Planning Diploma Program and the Bachelor of Applied Arts in Integrated Land Planning Technology Program. Jeff lives in Stratford with his wife Heather and two children.

Jeff, will be doing a presentation on the UTRCA's roles and responsibilities for this watershed at the May 13th General Meeting.

TRAAtoon



You have an acute case of insomnia Mrs. Brown. I'm prescribing three of my husband's fishing stories. If that doesn't put you to sleep, nothing will!



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News Bites May 2009

Join us at the
**Annual General Meeting
May 13, 2009**

The meeting starts at
8:00pm sharp

The venue is



1017 Western Road, London

Thames River Clean-Up - April 18th



The TRAA volunteered to clean up a large section of the riverbank in Greenway Park. The event was well attended and everything, including the kitchen sink (!), was picked up.

Meeting Features:

- Guest Speaker**
– Jeff Brick of the UTRCA!
- Trout Hatchery Report**
– the browns are now in the wild!
- and Much More ...**

Brown Trout Release - Picture Gallery



The Brown trout in the circular hatchery tank all packed and ready to go out on their own!



Into the transfer tank they go for the big trip!



*Arriving at the release site:
Dingman Creek on the Circle R Ranch.*



Will Mulder acclimates the fry before releasing to minimize the shock.



Stephan Jones releasing the brown trout fry into their new home.



If you look closely, you'll see the tail of an unlucky smaller brown trout fry sticking out of this guy's mouth!

Trout Committee

The brown trout fry are no longer in the TRAA trout hatchery. On Sunday, May 3rd, they were released into their new home, Dingman Creek.

Members, family and friends of the TRAA showed up at 9:00am at the trout hatchery to help transfer the latest successful batch of brown trout. The transfer tank was loaded onto the back of Bobby Pearson's truck (thanks Bobby!). Members then hand-bombed 5-litre pails of water from Komoka Creek into the tank.

Then the fun part: netting the brown trouties into the pails to be walked up the hill and then carefully dumped into the transfer tank. Bobby then led a small cavalcade of vehicles to the release area located on the property of the Circle R Ranch.

The browns were acclimated in the release bags and then allowed to swim free in their new environs.

It was the right time to do this release as some of the larger browns were starting to turn cannibalistic (see pictures at left).

Afterwards everyone was treated to hamburgers and hotdogs cooked up by Rob Huber and Bryon Mott treated everyone to an awesome perch fry – Cajun *and* regular flavour, yum!

Jeff Helsdon from Ontario Out of Doors was there interviewing the TRAA and snapping photo's for a summer issue of the magazine. Look for it in July or August!

The rainbow trout are still in the trays as sac fry. The Komoka fry (Tray #2) are noticeably bigger than the MNR hatchlings. Hatchery rotation members are reminded that there has been no interruptions in the schedule as these fry continue the daily-care cycle already in place.

Last General Meeting of the Summer!!

All members are urged to attend the June 10th General Meeting at Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London.

Most of our longer term members know that there are no formal General Meetings during the months of July and August. What we do instead is have "fishing meetings". For the last few years, July has traditionally been fishing for smallies on the North Thames River near Thorndale with a gathering at Paul Noble's place for barbequed "something" and beverages afterward. Unless there's a better idea, we'll probably do the same this coming July 8th. We'll discuss details at the June 10th General Meeting. The August 12th fishing meeting will also be decided at the June 10th General Meeting. The August outing has usually been for the venerable carp and has been a decidedly urban venue. Ideas for these fishing meetings are welcome and encouraged.

Trout Committee

The Rainbows are Soon Ready to Go

The rainbow trout fry will soon be ready to go as the area streams will be quickly warming up over the next few weeks. This could create an acclimation issue – the fry may go into shock when introduced into the relatively warm stream because the TRAA hatchery runs at a constant 9° to 10° Celsius, which is darn cold!

All in all they seem to be doing well and they've all pretty much been transferred into the circular growth tank.

Once the rainbows are gone, it will be time to do some maintenance both in and around the hatchery. Some of the "inner workings" have to be tweaked. The outside of the hatchery needs to be stained. The earthen stairs have to be rebuilt, along with some better railings.

And, the infamous shed will be built this summer!!

Warmwater

Bass Transfer? Who needs a Bass Transfer?

There have been numerous roadblocks on our way to a bass transfer for this year. In fact, there have been so many obstacles there will not be one for 2009. Despite the work that Victor Fulcher has done behind the scenes to get this thing going, there's just not enough time or options to pull it off. There will be specifics and possibly plans discussed at the June 10th General meeting.

Instead there will simply be an opening weekend fishing event. Again, plans will be thrashed out at the June 10th General Meeting.

THERE'S LOTS MORE GOING ON SO ...

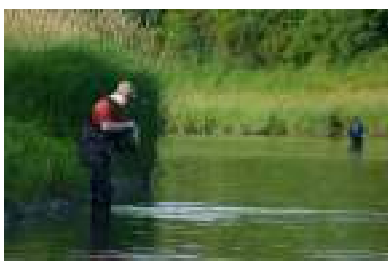
SEE YOU AT THE TRAA GENERAL MEETING!

8:00PM SHARP, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH

GROSVENOR LODGE, 1017 WESTERN ROAD, LONDON

August Fishing Night

August 12th will be our second fishing/barbeque outing of the summer. We will be meeting at the bridge near the Delaware Speedway (some call it the Komoka Bridge) at 6:00PM to fish the Main Thames River. Afterwards we will have a barbeque back at our new shed (Randy has generously donated his BBQ to the TRAA!). The July outing was marked by few fish but Lawson and Stephen seemed to have the magic touch with small body baits. Here's some pic's courtesy of Dean Agathos:



Stephen with one of many smallmouth bass.



Fred found one grazing in a wheat field!



Even the redhorse came out to play!

Work Party

This is a "smorgasbord" work party – a little something for everyone! Make your way out to the TRAA hatchery on Saturday, August 8th at 8:00AM. The hatchery exterior needs painting, the fry box needs painting, the stairs to the spring source need to be rebuilt and more. Many hands are needed so see ya there!

The New Shed's Built!!!

No, this is not the same cruel joke that has been worn out over the past year or so. The infamous TRAA shed has been erected. Over the course of several days in July a core group of TRAA members dedicated their being to making this shed a reality. For those who do not believe, here are some photos of the actual TRAA shed during construction:



Takin' a cue from a city crew ...



Much rejoicing – a wall is up!

General Meeting September 9th

Members and guests should try to make the TRAA General Meeting on Wednesday, September 9th. It's at Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road at 8:00pm sharp.

In addition to updates on the many activities occurring during the summer, highlights will include several guest speakers:

Manny Milforay – *My Life in Rubber Pants*

Van Hanoi – *Zen & the Art of Reel Maintenance*

Zack Flack – *Fishing with Explosive Devices*

Misty Frond – *PETA is not Unleavened Bread*

Zoltan – *Inflatables for Fishing & the Home*

Okay, maybe we don't have a guest speaker for the meeting but there's a lot of cool stuff to get updated on and to discuss.

Here are a few of the highlights (seriously):

Monitoring Program

We will be discussing a proposed salmonid monitoring program for fish returning to Komoka Creek in 2010.

Beaver Dam Destruction

There is a beaver dam blocking the upper reaches of Komoka Creek, causing all sorts of issues. There will be a quick explanation of the situation and then dates will be set to remove the dam.

Recap' of this Summer's Work Parties

There was a lot of work done over the summer by TRAA members and we will proudly go over these accomplishments.

Proposed Dredging of Komoka Creek

Members will be given an update on why this draconian practice is once again threatening Komoka Creek and what the TRAA proposes to do about it.

Adult Fish Transfer

This is still "out there" but there is a possibility to receive brown trout brood stock from the MNR for planting in area streams.

Brook Trout Re-Introduction

We touched on the possibility of bringing brook trout eggs into the TRAA hatchery during the June General Meeting. This discussion will continue with newer information.

See You at the Sep. 9th General Meeting!

Summer Activities

We were hoping to have more photographic submissions for this feature. Thanks to those who thought to send theirs along.

TRAA Fishing Night



Robert Clayton with a beauty Thames smallee.



Bryon Mott goes deep & scores a bronzeback.

The TRAA Shed



It's done and it's awesome! Nice work guys.

General Meeting October 14th

This month's TRAA General Meeting is on Wednesday, October 14th. As usual, it's at Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road at 8:00pm sharp.

In addition to some of the ongoing issues and activities, there are a few more just starting to heat up. Here are a few of the topics we'll be covering at the meeting:

Beaver Dam Destruction

Interesting developments are a-brewing with regard to the township already having removed the dam with heavy equipment. What is it with dams that makes good people go bad?

Recap' of Recent Work Parties

TRAA members have been at it again (see pic's opposite of the October 3rd work party).

Proposed Dredging of Komoka Creek

After seeing what recently happened at the beaver dam it's obvious that Komoka Creek is still in peril of this stupid, short-sighted practice. The TRAA now has the DFO and other agencies involved – stay tuned!

Springbank Dam Monitoring: 'Year 2'

Biotactic has completed 'Year 2' of the post-construction monitoring of fish passage. The City of London has the report but so far, no one else does!

See You at the Oct. 14th General Meeting!

Oct. 10th Work Party

This coming Saturday TRAA members will be meeting at the trout hatchery at 8:00am.

We will be continuing the good work started by last weekend's TRAA work party – see the pictures opposite, courtesy Robert Huber. He's also posted a video on *skunked.ca* of members mucking about:

<http://www.skunked.ca/viewtopic.php?t=13257&start=20>

Robert also mentioned that he and a few others will be heading out fishing for steelhead after Saturday's work party. Hmmm ...



The chainsaw's needed for the larger dead-falls.



Removing debris restores flow & stops flooding.



Done properly, impact on the stream is minimal.

General Meeting November 11th

Make sure you come to Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road at 8:00pm sharp on Wednesday, November 11th.

Here's some of what we'll be covering at the meeting:

Komoka Creek Dredging Update

The assumption is that the work we have done recently, as well as the precedents set in the past have earned Komoka Creek a reprieve from the ravages of heavy equipment. History tells us that we need to be diligent, keeping the pressure on to halt this short-term, short-sighted practice of dredging.

Trout Hatchery Activities

We will soon be getting this season's batch of brown trout eggs. There are a number of members who have expressed an interest in becoming part of the trout hatchery rotation so you need to get your name in soon. Get an update at the November General Meeting.

Springbank Dam Monitoring: 'Year 2'

Most of you already know that Biotactic has completed 'Year 2' of the post-construction monitoring of fish passage. The folks who occupy the "Happy Horseshoe" at City Hall have yet to release their version of the report. In case anyone missed it, Randy Bailey's letter to the London Free Press is opposite. We'll chat about this issue at the November General Meeting.

TRAA Rainbow Derby

On Sunday, November 1st, several TRAA members ventured out onto the Thames River near the mouth of Dingman Creek in search of the elusive rainbow trout, AKA steelhead. There were smallmouth and silver bass caught, along with white suckers and a walleye. John Jackson decided to break with TRAA tradition and actually landed the species we were fishing for: a lovely 10-lb. steelhead (see picture opposite).

Letter to the Editor

Springbank Dam Post Construction Fish Monitoring: Year 2

Year 2 of the post construction fish monitoring study was completed by Biotactic on time in late August and submitted to the City of London for review. It is now November 4th and we the concerned stakeholders/taxpayers are still waiting for the City to release the results. If you recall, year 1 of post construction monitoring showed that the attraction rates were similar but the passage efficiencies were not even close. This is going to pose a serious problem. The delays, rising costs and lack of information on the environmental aspects can't be serving anyone's interests. Hopefully the City will get nothing from their litigation proceedings and finally realize that this dam needs to go because I am quite sure there will be a revolt once we all understand who is going to be paying for it.. Not to mention the SETC's erosion protection plans, and the habitat alteration degradation and destruction that has occurred downstream. These costs have yet to be factored in to the equation. So for a select few, and their historical expectation of use, I say get rid of it! Heck, they finally relocated to another facility this summer after 3 years.

Posted By: Randy Bailey President, Thames River Anglers Association. London

Posted On: November 4, 2009



*John Jackson with a lovely 10-lb. steelhead.
(Sorry John, had to improvise because
nobody sent any pictures as requested.)*

General Meeting December 9th

Mark Wednesday December 9th on your calendar as the next General Meeting at Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road. We try to start at 8:00pm sharp so try to be a few minutes early and pitch in to set up.

Some of the items we'll be covering at the meeting will be:

Komoka Creek Destruction Update

Yes, you read it right. It appears that despite the protests of the TRAA, landowners and other stakeholders, heavy equipment has gone into specific stretches of Komoka Creek to create havoc. This promises to "up the ante" in the battle for environmentally responsible methods over the moronically heavy-handed and short-sighted practices that have recently been taken. Pictures of the results of the latest stupidity are opposite.

Springbank Dam

It looks like the first public volley has been fired in the legal wrangle over who's at fault over the failure of the "improved" Springbank Dam. The claim is that a bunch of unqualified people ran the gates while the qualified folks were out to lunch. You just can't make this stuff up!

Springbank Dam Monitoring: 'Year 2'

'Year 2' of the post-construction monitoring of fish passage was completed with the report submitted to the City of London in August, 2009. We were promised that it would be published in early November and we're still waiting. They must be putting quite a spin on this year's results!

Storm Sewer Awareness Program

There was discussion regarding the possibility of the TRAA launching an awareness program for storm sewers in the London area. Many folks don't realise that these sewers flow directly to our area rivers and streams.

There are programs and resources available so we'll discuss these possibilities further at the December 9th General Meeting.

Komoka Creek Destruction



*Komoka Creek is one of the last cold water tributaries existing in the Thames River watershed.
How can you justify this senselessness?*



This is not a solution to any situation; it is an abomination of rational thought. This is a short term, quick fix that benefits no one.

TRAA Business Cards

There seems to be renewed interest in getting TRAA business cards printed up for members to give out at different events and "on the water". We'll have some draft designs to pass around and discuss at the meeting on December 9th.