

The CREDIT RIVER CHRONICLE

THE VOICE OF THE GREG CLARK CHAPTER

FALL 2009

President's Message Mike Warrian (acting president)

On a recent Saturday morning I participated in a brook trout spawning survey in Black Creek near Acton. Walking upstream, surrounded by the beautiful fall foliage, was a joyful experience. Earlier I took part in two Chapter work days, planting trees and picking up trash along the TU agreement section of the Credit River.

These outings reminded me why I joined TU Canada in the beginning -- to help preserve and rehabilitate trout habitat on the Credit. I want to encourage all our members, especially the younger people, to get more involved in Chapter stream work and perhaps join the Board to help plan and carry out our "hands on" projects. You can begin by attending our fall members' meeting on November 18th. Full details appear later in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there.



Orangeville C3 Bob Thomson

This past summer Carolyn Glass, a Master's candidate in the Department of Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo, worked for the Chapter to lay the groundwork for our major new conservation initiative in the headwaters of the Credit River. We are calling this initiative the Orangeville Coldwater Conservation Challenge – Orangeville C3. It involves working with the Town's planning and engineering staff and the Orangeville Sustainability Action Team to ensure that the major infrastructure projects -- to be undertaken by the Town in the next few years -- are implemented in a way that maximizes the conservation of the clean cold water originating in the Credit's headwaters and so crucial to the river's health.

Carolyn interviewed planning staff and watershed management professionals working on these projects and gathered data on their conservation potential. She has outlined a series of projects in which TU and our conservation partners can work with the project managers, the planning staff and the community to raise both the public awareness and the private funding to ensure that these projects will conserve and protect the cold water resource. The first project will likely be a major restoration on Mill Creek commencing next summer. You will hear much more about Orangeville C3 as our fundraising and volunteer activities move into high gear in the coming seasons.



2009 Workdays – A Busy (and Wet) Year

Brian Greck and Sherwin Watson-Leung

The year 2009 was another very successful one for the Chapter, with the completion of six project initiatives. More than 120 volunteers were involved for a total of over 400 people-hours!

On April 11th several volunteers came out to work on the annual Sligo Bridge Clean-up. This was followed by the biggest event of the year: on April 25th more than 70 people turned up to help with the Annual Orangeville Earth Day activities, organized in conjunction with the Izaak





Orangeville Earth Day Volunteers

Walton Fly Fishing Club (IWFFC) and the Town of Orangeville. The day saw the planting of 475 trees and shrubs, a stream clean-up and the installation of a new Trout Unlimited garbage kiosk.

Twenty-three volunteers gathered at Caledon Creek on May 3, when 300 trees and shrubs were planted. The plantings helped restore riparian habitat in a stream that is home to the endangered minnow, the reddsides dace.

Along with Chapter members, the event drew volunteers from IWFFC, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), Ontario Streams, Halton Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship (HPWWS) and the Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA).



Black Creek Pond—Stone Removal

On July 11, volunteers braved torrential downpours to help with the mitigation of an online pond in Black Creek. Their efforts restored the creek's natural bank by the removal of stone armouring, and aided in removing the online pond and restoring fish passage.



Sediment Trap—Upper Credit

On August 16, seven volunteers removed a fallen tree and wood debris across the Credit River downstream of Sligo bridge. The trunk, root wad and wood debris were relocated to the banks of the river to provide fish habitat and restore sediment transport through the channel meander bend.



Fallen Tree Removal

On August 9, volunteers made the 1 km hike into the Upper Credit Conservation Area to help build an instream "sediment trap" structure. (The stream is over-widened because of past land use activities.) The trap was built to accelerate the narrowing of the stream, which will help speed up flows, reduce stream temperatures and provide instream habitat for fish. Although the day was interrupted by torrential downpours (again!), we all got to enjoy the gorgeous surroundings of the conservation area and a barbecue to end the day. The workday builds on the other projects completed here by the chapter, IWFFC, Credit Valley Youth Corps and CVC. Funding for the project was provided by MNR CFWIP and IWFFC. A very special thanks to: Dave Rutherford and R & B Construction Services Inc. for volunteering their time, machines and effort for the project; and to all the volunteers for helping to make this a great year!

Advocacy/Regulatory Issues Brian Greck

Orangeville Sewage Treatment Plant Class Environmental Assessment: The Town of Orangeville's Class Environmental Assessment to identify the preferred design approach for future wastewater servicing is ongoing. The second public meeting was not held this past spring or summer. Two items under assessment are approaches to reducing extraneous flows into the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP); and expansion and upgrading of the existing WPCP capacity from 14,400 m³/day to 17,500 m³/day. The preferred alternative, above, would accommodate the Town's ultimate "built-out" population, projected to occur between 2015 and 2020.

Aside from the Municipal Class EA process, the treatment plant will implement short-term upgrades. These upgrades include measures to meet a federal requirement to eliminate chlorinated waste water by the end of 2009, and to improve front-end screening and pumping facilities where wastewater enters the plant. Doug Jones, P. Eng., Managing Director for Environmental and Development Services will speak at the November 18, 2009 Fall General Meeting about the current status of the Class EA and ongoing WPCP upgrades.

Norval Dam Fishway: In spite of the very poor conditions of the existing dam in Norval, detail design plans are near completion for a dual Denil Fishway. The dual fishway design allows passage of a variety of fish species, both leaping and non-leaping, under a wide range of flow conditions. The fishway will initially target the passage of Atlantic Salmon and if a new upstream barrier is identified for partitioning Steelhead they too will pass at this dam.



Water Treatment Plant

Rainbow Trout in the Upper Credit River and the Credit River Species Partitioning Barrier Class Environmental Assessment: Adult rainbow trout are currently partitioned from upstream migration by the dam in Norval. Adult fish however have been reported to attain unassisted passage at the dams in Streetsville and Norval during occasional high spring flow conditions. Transfers of adult fish by the CRAA occur in the spring and fall into Silver Creek. All transferred fish are tagged. Observations of caught tagged fish should be reported to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The second public meeting for the ongoing MNR Class EA for a new species partitioning barrier on the Credit River did not take place this past spring or fall. Evaluation of various locations and approaches are being examined. Members of the Greg Clark Chapter and our TU Ontario biologist Silvia D'Amelio reviewed the preliminary evaluation matrix and provided comments in the spring of 2009. The short list of locations includes the Caledon Golf Course, Cheltenham and the Paper Mill dam in Georgetown. The short list of approaches includes a low head dam or weir, an inflatable dam and an electric barrier.

Some Good News on Green Drakes: Henry Frania continues to pursue his research on the Green Drakes in the Upper Credit watershed. His observations from the spring of 2009 suggest that conditions have improved on at least the lower part of the West Branch. Furthermore, he has had success extending the life of Green Drake nymphs transplanted to places on the Credit where they otherwise die very quickly. If he can repeat the experiment, it will provide the first direct evidence that a toxin in the water is killing the nymphs. Keep up the good work, Henry.



Fund Raising Mike Warrian

The 2009 Greg Clark Split Cane Rod Raffle proved to be our most successful raffle to date. All 100 tickets were sold at \$50 each, and with very minimal expenses, we realized \$4950 net.

Special thanks are extended to **James Bond**, who built and donated the beautiful 7 ½ ft. Split Cane Fly Rod, and to **Trout Unlimited Canada** for its donations of the Orvis Fly Reel and the bottle of Glenfiddich Scotch Whisky. Many thanks as well to all of our members, friends and supporters who generously purchased the raffle tickets to support our Orangeville C3 initiative. The draw was made at the Chapter Annual General Meeting which took place at the CVC head offices in Mississauga on May 13th.

First prize, the Split Cane Fly Rod, was won by Dr. Gerd Oster of Georgetown.

Second prize, the Orvis Battenkill Disc Drag Fly Reel, was won by Ms. Jeanne de Bretton of Uxbridge.

Third prize, the bottle of 15-year-old Glenfiddich single malt whisky, was won by Mrs. Jennifer Yust of Burlington. Congratulations to our prize winners!

Alton Mill Pond Rehabilitation Mike Warrian

There is keen interest in taking the Alton Mill pond offline to improve the temperature and the purity of the water in the lowest reach of Shaw's Creek before it empties into the Credit River. The Chapter is very supportive of this initiative.

While the project is still in an early stage, a working committee has been formed whose members include the property owner, Alton Development Inc., representatives from CVC, OMNR, the Town of Caledon and environmental organizations, and several local residents. Mike Warrian is representing the Greg Clark Chapter, TUC.

Two meetings have been held so far, during which discussion focussed on determining the scope, the cost and the approvals necessary for the project. A third meeting is scheduled in November. As more information becomes available we will make it known to the membership.

Provincial & National Highlights Silvia D'Amelio

The Bronte Creek Renewal Program started in June with the hiring of Mary Finch as the Bronte Creek Biologist. With financial support from the City of Burlington, The Trillium Foundation, Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows and Esso Imperial Oil, we held three community workshops and a family fun day where 40 children walked away with new rods and reels. This five-year program will aid in the restoration of Bronte Creek through the education and support of landowners and the completion of major restoration projects.

The Toronto Fundraising Dinner, sponsored by Enbridge, sold out this year, with more than 380 attendees. Over \$200,000 was raised for conservation.

Chapters are active in restoration, rehabilitation, conservation and education programs in southern and central Ontario. Current projects include river habitat restoration, water quality assessment, fisheries assessment and youth education. Many chapters also are continuing their advocacy work in local issues.

TUC's monitoring and research programs continued in 2008. TUC Ontario saw its first lab operational this year, processing benthic and water quality samples including E. coli testing.



Doug Cressman, C. E. O. of Trout Unlimited Canada

Doug passed away on Sept. 24, 2009. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him as an outstanding leader with a passion for our coldwater resources and the work of TUC. On behalf of all Greg Clark Chapter members we extend deepest sympathy to Doug's wife and children.

The Notice Board Jack Mackay

Doug Jones, P. Eng., Managing Director for Environmental and Development Services in Orangeville will speak at the November 18, 2009 Fall General Meeting about the current status of the environmental assessment and ongoing upgrades to the Orangeville water treatment plant.

Monthly Working Meetings: You are invited to join us at monthly working meetings and participate in the ongoing work of the chapter. These meetings will be held at the offices of Inline Systems at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month, except June through August, at 361 Applewood Cres. in Vaughan. Here is a map to help you get there:

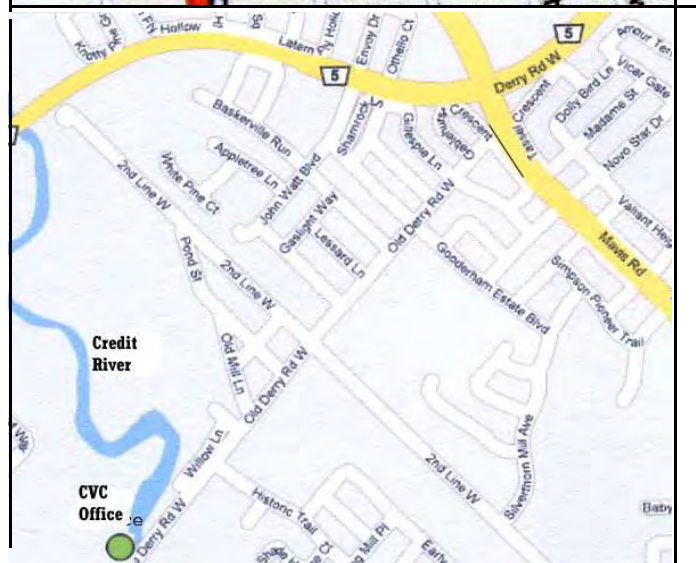
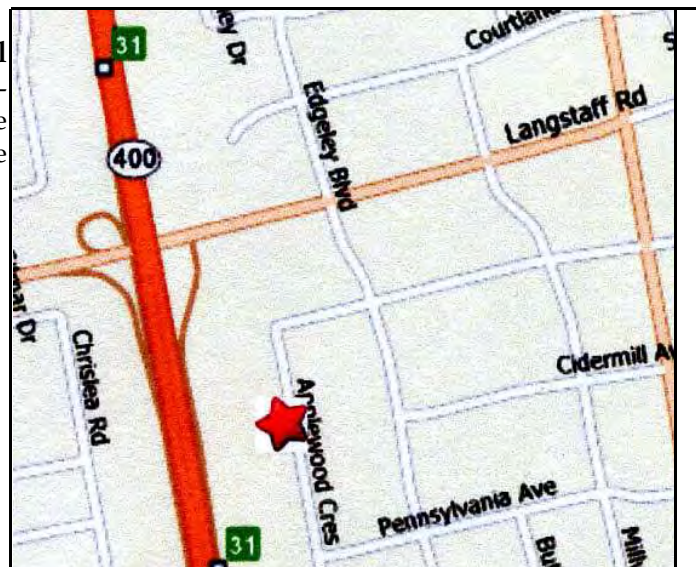
Chapter Membership: If you haven't yet renewed your Chapter membership, please take a moment to do so. You can renew on the Trout Unlimited website www.tucanada.org

Visit our Chapter Web Page at www.tucanada.org
Then click: Chapters/Ontario/ Greg Clark

Fall General Meeting
November 18, 2009 7:30 PM
Credit Valley Conservation
1255 Old Derry Rd. W. Meadowvale Village

The agenda will include:

- Orangeville C3 project
- This summer's workdays
- A National/Ontario report
- The presentation by Doug Jones



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