



The CREDIT RIVER CHRONICLE

THE VOICE OF THE GREG CLARK CHAPTER

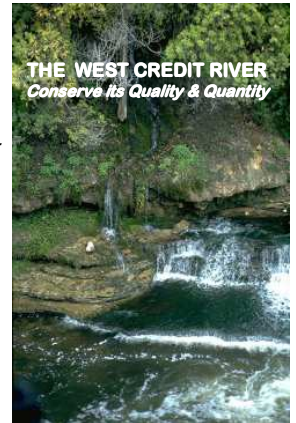
SPRING 2007

President's Message: Bob Thomson

For a number of years most of us have felt that the best contribution the Greg Clark Chapter can make towards conserving cold water habitat on the upper Credit River is by conducting effective stream rehabilitation projects. This focus has served us well and we can be justly proud of successfully completing many important projects. In the meantime however, the issues on the watershed have been evolving. Increasing population and development pressure have led to declines in both water quantity and water quality. The recently released CVC Watershed Report Card highlights the problem and our study of the decline of the Green Drake population dramatically illustrates its impact. The intractability of global warming suggests that the problem will become increasingly difficult to solve.

Through the winter we have been wrestling with what the Chapter should do to address this challenge. We have concluded that, although our stream rehabilitation work remains important, we must pay more attention to the conservation of water quantity and quality. To that end, we have resolved that the Chapter should extend its focus – specifically, in addition to stream rehabilitation, we must find ways to *'promote an approach to land and water use in the watershed which requires net environmental gain and is based on prior environmental assessment and ongoing monitoring of environmental impact'*.

We are now in the process of determining the types of activities we can realistically undertake to utilize this new focus. We hope you will join us at the Annual General Meeting at CVC on April 18th to help us identify some specific actions we can launch to implement this objective. We recognize it will be an ongoing and difficult challenge, but we believe it is vital to the future of our conservation efforts in the watershed.



WeCARE at Woolen Mills Conservation Area: Amy Doole

For the past two years the West Credit Appreciation Rehabilitation and Enhancement project (WeCARE) has worked with volunteers on hands-on environmental projects throughout the West Credit River watershed. Projects have included streamside tree planting, reforestation in groundwater recharge areas, pond naturalization, and instream habitat creation and remediation. WeCARE has worked on both private and public land, selecting projects of scientific merit that will have positive effects on the health of the watershed.

This year WeCARE will focus its efforts on Woolen Mills Conservation Area. Owned by Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), this park is located within the village of Erin. It is a forested area in which are several hundreds of metres of the West Credit River and the ruins of the property's namesake: a historic woolen mill. WeCARE has made a number of exciting new local partnerships to work on revitalizing the park, creating instream habitat features and educational signage.

To start off the season and to celebrate Earthday, WeCARE partners will work with volunteers to clean up the park's trails as part of the annual Town of Erin Community Clean-up. More trail work



will follow, together with the development of interpretive panels for self-guided tours of the property.

For their part, members of the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TUC-GCC), the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club (IWFFC) and biologists from CVC are mentoring local Scouts in the art and science of stream restoration. The Scouts have met with the experts streamside to learn the techniques appropriate for the reach of the river at Woolen Mills. The torch has been passed, so to speak, and now it will be up to the boys. The Scouts will take responsibility for applying for funds, arranging supplies, and recruiting volunteers. TU-GCC, IWFFC, and CVC will be there along the way to guide their progress, in the hope that this year's success will lead to further local initiatives.



Advocacy/Regulatory Issues: Brian Greck

Green Drake Monitoring Update: Henry Frania has finished his "Green Drake Project Report for 2006." As reported in the Fall newsletter, the situation continues to worsen for Green Drakes on the Credit River. The report includes investigations completed on the Beeny and Black Creek tributaries of the Credit River and work done with Ken Robbins on the Rocky Saugeen River and the Boyne branch of the Nottawasaga River. Human impacts and climate change appear to be the key factors influencing the decline in Green Drakes.

Class EA for the Credit River Species Partitioning Barrier: The first draft of the Environmental Study Report (ESR) for a New Migratory Rainbow Trout Barrier on the Credit River, Class Environmental Assessment was released for 30-day review on 27 January 2007. As part of the stewardship component of MNR's Class EA process, MNR will accept comments, suggestions and information throughout the process. This document was reviewed and commented on by TU staff and members and, while they think significant work is still needed, the document does serve its purpose of initiating and identifying the EA as a "Category C", according to MNR's Class EA process. A copy of the MNR Class EA document can be downloaded at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/stewardea/>. A digital copy of the draft EA document can be obtained from Silvia D'Amelio or from CRAA's web site. Public meeting(s) are expected to begin in 2007.



Atlantic Salmon Reintroduction Program: Preliminary stocking plans for the Credit in 2007 include the release of 25,000 yearlings between Inglewood and Terra Cotta, followed by 100,000 to 150,000 advance fry. More details can be obtained at the websites www.atlanticsalmonontario.ca/ and www.bringbackthesalmon.ca/.



Credit River Water Management Strategy Update (CRWMU) and CVC's Strategic Plan: The CVC's Hazel Breton provided an overview of the recently completed CRWMU report at the TU-GCC fall general meeting. The primary strategic focus is the control of urban impacts on water resources within the Credit River watershed. Successful implementation of the plan will be a challenge for the CVC, and will rely heavily on the co-operation and support of municipalities, the urban development industry, and a wide range of non-government organizations. The study has been used to update the CVC's Strategic Plan. TU participated in a one-day public workshop on the Plan's development. A copy of the Strategic Plan is available for download at <http://www.creditvalleycons.com/bulletin/resources.htm#water>.

Ontario Report: Silvia D'Amelio, Jack Imhof

It's a busy year in Ontario.

The Toronto Spring Fishing Show, in mid-February, was a great success! Twenty-three volunteers, including 13 TUC members, came out to provide support to our booth and the children's area. The Show's organizers have expressed their warmest gratitude to TUC members and friends. Without the volunteers, there wouldn't have been a children's trout pond this year, and we offer our thanks to all who helped.

On March 1, with the worst winter storm of the year raging outside, we held our annual Scotch Taster once more at the National Club in Toronto. Ian Miller, Brand Specialist for Glenfiddich, was our special guest. Although we had hoped for more than 100 participants, close to 85 intrepid scotch lovers braved the horrible elements and were treated to a wonderful night.

Trout Unlimited Canada has successfully purchased the property beside Gapens Pool on the Nipigon River. We must still raise funds to cover a small debt, but we're delighted that we can now protect the land that feeds the spawning area for Coaster brook trout in Gapens Pool. A special thank you to those who contributed to this acquisition during the past year.

Preparations are underway for the 2nd Ontario Chapter Symposium, to take place on November 16 and 17 at the Five Oaks Centre in Paris. Ontario members will receive registration and agenda details in April.

The Toronto Dinner is scheduled for November 28 at the Metro Convention Centre. The Chair of the Dinner is Walter Oster, president and owner of Pier 4 Storehouse Restaurant, Chair and CEO of the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows and Chair of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Walter will bring his considerable expertise and experience in fundraising to our dinner.

We were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of member Sue Robins. Sue was the wife and fishing buddy of our good friend and TUC member Ken Robins. She was killed in a car accident on February 22, leaving to mourn Ken and their daughters Heather and Sherry. Sue will be missed by all of us.

2007 Workdays – Come Out and Get Your Feet Wet: Jon Clayton

Below is a list of fishy workdays scheduled for 2007. Please bring friends, family, appropriate clothing, footwear and waders (where necessary). Many events are followed by a barbecue. Where locations and times are not yet confirmed, or for more information, please contact Heather Yates at (905) 670-1615 x285 or by email at stewardship@creditvalleycons.com. For additional updates and workdays, you can also check Credit Valley Conservation's webpage at <http://www.creditvalleycons.com/bulletin/calendars/workdaycalendar.htm>.



<i>EVENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>LOCATION/DETAILS</i>	<i>TIME</i>
Sligo Bridge Clean-up (TU)	Saturday April 21	Meet at first bridge on McLaughlin Rd. north of Grange Sideroad; BBQ to follow.	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
WeCARE at Woolen Mills CA - Erin Community Clean-up	Saturday April 28	Park on Main Street, take Mill Street to end of Woolen Mill Lane. BBQ to follow.	9 a.m. – noon
Scouts' Instream Clean-up at Woolen Mills CA (WeCARE)	Saturday June 16	Park on Main Street, take Mill Street to end of Woolen Mill Lane. BBQ to follow. Bring waders or rubber boots & work gloves.	9 a.m. – noon
Instream Workday at Woolen Mills CA (WeCARE)	Saturday June 23	Park on Main Street, take Mill Street to end of Woolen Mill Lane. BBQ to follow. Bring waders or rubber boots & work gloves.	9 a.m. – noon
Hillsburgh River Clean-up Workday (WeCARE)	Saturday July 7	Meet at Lions Club Park, Mills Street, Hillsburgh. BBQ to follow.	9 a.m. – noon
Instream Workday at Woolen Mills CA (TU/IWFFC)	Saturday July 14	Instream structures, tree planting. Park on Main Street, take Mill Street to end of Woolen Mills Lane. BBQ to follow.	9 a.m. – noon
Bank Revetment DeGuisti Property (TU)	Saturday July 28	16559 McLaughlin Road, north of the Grange Sideroad. Park on the road. BBQ to follow.	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Monitoring Day at Woolen Mills CA (WeCARE)	Saturday August 11	Park on Main Street, take Mill Street to end of Woolen Mill Lane.	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Rocky Ramp at Rogers Creek (TU/CVC)	Saturday August 11	Instream work to improve rocky ramp. Park on Bricklane Road in Terra Cotta.	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Electrofishing - Belfountain d/s of dam (WeCARE/CVC)	Saturday August 25	Belfountain Conservation Area. No breathable waders.	9:30 a.m.
WeCARE Community Conservation Symposium – co-sponsored by Everdale Env. Learning Centre	Saturday Sept. 29	Everdale Environmental Learning Centre, Hillsburgh. Topics include Woodlot Management, Caring for your Pond or Wetland, Sustainable Planning & Local Recreation Opportunities.	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Spawning Survey (Belfountain)	Saturday Oct. 27	Meet at Belfountain Conservation Area.	9 a.m.
Spawning Survey (Centre 2000)	Sunday Nov. 4	Meet at Centre 2000 in Erin.	9 a.m.

Fundraising: Bob Thomson

In the course of the past year, the Chapter raised over \$9,500 for WeCARE. These monies came from member and corporate donations, our 2006 Rod Raffle, donations from the IWFFC and the OMNR Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP). They have been an important supplement to the Trillium Foundation funding for this project.

In the 2007 season we will be participating in the TUC Ontario Toyota FJ Cruiser Lottery. Tickets are \$20 each, and from each ticket our Chapter sells, \$10 goes to Ontario-wide projects and \$10 to support WeCARE. This raffle has already raised nearly \$1,000 for WeCARE, and we expect total raffle receipts of at least \$3,000. The Chapter has pledged a total of \$10,000 for WeCARE in 2007, so we will also be asking for donations from corporations, TU members and the general public. Further, we have applied for a matching grant from the TUC Cold Water Conservation Fund.



In addition to specific WeCARE funding, last season we raised nearly \$1,200 in donations for other Chapter projects. This year we need to become more effective in tapping these sources to support activities such as signs, newsletter mailings and advocacy work.

The Notice Board: Jack Mackay

31st ANNUAL FLY FISHING FORUM April 14 & 15, Holiday Inn, Burlington ON. Guelph Line south of the QEW, presented by the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club. Information at www.iwffc.ca or (905) 276-6345.

WeCARE & RACC TRAILS WORKDAY May 12, Erin. Woolen Mills Park 9 a.m.-12 noon.

ERIN SUMMER CELEBRATION May 26, Erin. Visit the WeCARE booth and get your ticket on the truck.

BELFOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA CLEAN-UP June 2, 10 Credit St. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

BAD EMAIL ADDRESSES. We try to send as many newsletters as possible by email because it saves money and results in a better product you can print in colour. Unfortunately, almost 1/3 of the addresses don't work because people move or change their servers and don't let us know. If you have email and are getting the newsletter by post but would like to get it by email, tell us your current email address. Just send an email to Andreeane at Trout Unlimited Canada TU membership <membership@tucanada.org> with the message "Sent from my current email address."

CHAPTER WEBSITE: The Greg Clark Chapter wants to have its own website. If any Chapter members have skills in this area and would like to help, please contact Jack Mackay at (416) 656-5277 or jackson.mackay@sympatico.ca

Annual General Meeting

April 12, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Credit Valley Conservation

1255 Old Derry Rd. W.
Meadowvale Village

The agenda includes:

Mark Heaton speaks on: "Management of the Recreational Brook Trout Fishery and Angling at La Reserve Beauchene, Quebec". (An amazing story of successful reproduction and a world-class fishing experience)

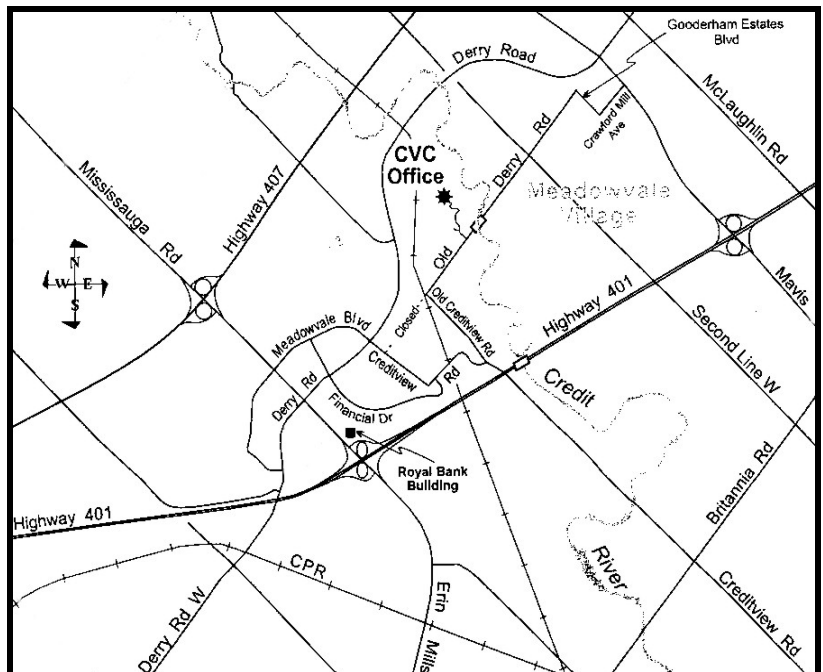
Evolution of Chapter strategy towards conserving water quality and quantity

Review of financials

Election of directors

Discussion of work plans and WeCARE

Please join us and help guide our efforts for the upcoming season.



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