

The CREDIT RIVER CHRONICLE

THE VOICE OF THE GREG CLARK CHAPTER



Trout Unlimited Canada
Greg Clark Chapter

President's Message – Spring 2013

Welcome to our Spring 2013 TU-GCC Newsletter. We had a bit more winter weather in 2013 compared to recent years, but closer to normal over the long term. This is good news for our cold water fisheries and it has not slowed our chapter and the many activities underway.



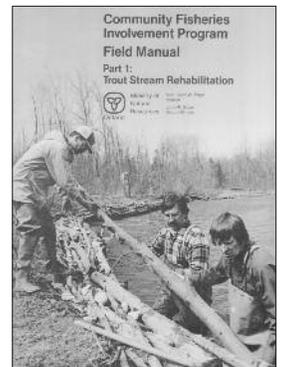
Brian Greck

Activities with the Town of Orangeville Mill Creek Restoration Project have been fairly quiet as the consulting engineering firm carries out their studies and work with the landowners. We anticipate the recommendations for the preferred approach to stream restoration later this spring. We have also been working with CVC staff and the Town to develop a pilot program to better control stormwater at the lot level. The goal here is to improve water quality from residential lots.

Developing the Chapter's Brook trout recovery strategy has been actively underway with the first of our workshops held in January 2013. Plans are currently being developed to increase monitoring efforts and habitat protection and restoration efforts in key Brook trout habitat reaches. In addition to our typical list of workday events we will carry out temperature, dissolved oxygen and bioassay monitoring activities to support development of our Brook trout recovery strategy.

Details of our planned monitoring activities and the development of our Brook trout recovery strategy will be discussed at our Annual General Meeting, May 1st at the Credit Valley Conservation offices at 1255 Old Derry Road in Meadowvale beginning at 7:30 p.m. I encourage you all to come out and to provide us with your ideas and suggestions.

Finally, the Community Fish and Wildlife Improvement Program (CFWIP) is no longer with us! This provincial program administered by the Ministry of Natural Resource program served our Chapter very well for many years. This does not come as any great surprise as program funding had diminished considerably over recent years. The program has been replaced with the Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program (LSHRP). LSHRP is a competitive granting program which will make \$300,000 available annually with a maximum funding of \$20,000 per project. This program was created to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of our natural ecosystems. Further details can be obtained at www.ontario.ca/LSHRP



1982 CFIP Cover
(Later renamed CFWIP)
Recognize these three?

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

7:30 PM

CVC Offices

1255 Old Derry Road

Credit River Brook Trout Recovery Strategy

On 26 January 2013 the TU-GCC Board conducted a workshop to initiate the development of a Brook trout recovery strategy. Our strategy is intended to be consistent with the overall goals and objectives of the CRFMP (currently being updated) and fit within the framework of the greater watershed Brook Trout Recovery Strategy (currently being developed) by agencies stakeholders and NGOs within the watershed. The workshop was facilitated by Silvia D'amelio, TU Canada Ontario Program Manager. The meeting was also attended by MNR and CVC staff. The meeting produced interesting results suggesting that additional work is required in the coming year to develop a strategy which is based on clear and supportable objectives.

This matter is of significant importance to the Chapter and in the interim of developing the recovery strategy the Chapter plans to continue to collect information and monitor critical Brook trout habitats.

Orangeville Coldwater Conservation Challenge (C3)

Over the past several years, the chapter has been working with the Town of Orangeville and CVC and IWFFC to develop a number of cold water conservation initiatives in the headwaters of the Credit River.



Bob Thomson

Mill Creek

Mill Creek is a cold water stream running through the heart of downtown Orangeville. A section flowing through a number of private properties is badly degraded and in need of major restoration work. C3 conducted a program over two seasons to contact landowners and the public and advise them on the importance of this work and on how they could participate in the planning process. The communications were well received and the Town retained consultants to proceed with design work for the restoration. The consultants are working with Mill Creek landowners to develop specific restoration plans for each property in the project area. They expect to complete proposals which are acceptable to all parties by early May. At that point they will hold a public information meeting and the Town will submit the proposals for the required regulatory approvals. The approval and permitting process is likely to go on over most of the summer. If all approvals are in place, construction could begin in September or October. The C3 group will continue to monitor the process, participate in public meetings and support the communications process.

Monora Creek

Lower Monora Creek is a cold water stream flowing through some of the older subdivisions in Orangeville. It supports pockets of wild Brook trout and other cold water species but is obstructed by two storm water management ponds. These ponds raise the water temperature and block migration of fish. In the next couple of years, the Town expects to redesign these ponds and restore the creek downstream of them.

Last fall we submitted a proposal to the Great Lakes Community Guardian Fund for assistance in funding an outreach program on Lower Monora Creek. The purpose of this project is to build the public awareness and community stewardship necessary to support this rehabilitation work. Unfortunately our project was not accepted in the first round of GLCGF funding and the criteria have changed for the second round so our project is no longer eligible for support from this agency. The C3 partners all believe this project will be an important precursor to planned stream work on the creek, however construction work on Mill Creek is likely to delay work on Monora Creek at least until 2015 so we propose continue to investigate alternative funding sources but to postpone the stewardship project until 2014.

TUC GCC AGM Special!

Win-a-Hat on May 1 at our AGM.

Winner will name the Year / Place on the Credit River / Volunteers – in this issues "20th Century Pic's"

RAIN

RAIN is a program implemented in many municipalities across North America to assist property owners to increase storm water infiltration into the ground and reduce storm water run-off from their properties. One of the major challenges facing Orangeville (and the Credit River) is preventing storm water getting into the sanitary sewer lines and overwhelming the treatment plant during storm events. Many storm sewer pipes run adjacent to sanitary sewer pipes. When storm events fill storm sewers the increased water pressure can result in cross-flow through leaks and pipe breaks. Modern residential developments are designed to maximize infiltration of storm water into the ground and to minimize run-off into the storm sewers, creating a buffering effect. Older subdivisions and commercial and industrial developments, however, often have large paved surfaces and storm water runs off directly into the storm sewers.

C3 has been exploring the potential for bringing a RAIN program to Orangeville. As a first step, the Town is planning to conduct a survey of older sewer lines to identify areas where cross flow is a problem. This will provide a focus for further activity. In the meantime we are continuing to explore how we would fund and manage a RAIN program.



Win-a-Hat at the AGM! – What year? Where on the Credit? Who?

Credit River Fisheries Management Plan Update (CRFMP)

It has been 11 year since the development of the current CRFMP. During that time there has been more knowledge gained on the Credit River watershed and its' aquatic resources. While primary objectives of habitat, protection, restoration and enhancement continue, the management of various fish communities still remains a challenge. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has taken the lead in preparing an update of the Fish Community Management Objectives. They have proposed an approach which will set objectives similar to other fisheries management plans for watersheds in the Greater Toronto Area. The TU-Greg Clark Chapter has provided comments on the draft. The MNR is currently reviewing all comments received and a revised set of Fish Community Management Objectives is expected this spring.



Brian Greck

2013 Events and Workdays Calendar

1. Annual Sligo Bridge Clean-up

Saturday, April 13. 9am – noon

Come on out to one of the most beautiful reaches of the Credit River to help keep the Credit River clean. All are welcome to come to Trout Unlimited's Annual Credit River Clean up. Kick off the spring by helping us maintain this scenic reach of the Credit River. Trout Unlimited has been helping to maintain this reach of river on behalf of private landowners for over 30 years. Please bring waders if possible. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. Free BBQ to follow.

Location: Meet at the first bridge on McLaughlin Road, north of Grange Sideroad, Caledon. Park along the road.

Details and Registration:

Check www.creditvalleyca.ca/about-cvc/events-calendar



Sherwin
Watson-Leung

2. Orangeville Earth Day Tree Planting

Saturday, April 20. 9am – noon

Participate in the Earth Day Tree Planting, in partnership with CVC, OSAT, the Town of Orangeville, The Lions Club, Trout Unlimited and the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club. Come out and help fight climate change and increase the forest cover in the Town of Orangeville. No experiences needed, there will be demonstrations on site. Equipment will be provided, but if you have your own shovel please bring it. Light refreshments and a free BBQ will be offered after the tree planting!

Location: Rotary Park, Orangeville

Details & Registration: Lindsey Jennings at 905-670-1615 x445.

Check www.creditvalleyca.ca/about-cvc/events-calendar



20th Century Workday Volunteers – Were you there?

3. Forks of the Credit & Highway 24 Habitat Restoration

Sunday July 14 and Sunday August 11. 9am – noon

Come out to the famous "Forks of the Credit" and help enhance fish habitat in the Credit River. We'll be constructing 'debris catchers' to provide cover for trout and salmon. A great chance to learn about stream restoration and help the environment! An Izaak Walton Fishing Club and Trout Unlimited Greg Clark Chapter event in partnership with CVC. Please bring waders if possible. Tools and safety equipment will be provided.

Location: TBD

Details and Registration: Steve Copeland

stevec@porchlight.ca, or 519-927-5025.

Check www.creditvalleyca.ca/about-cvc/events-calendar

4. Check Your Watershed Day

Saturday, July 20. 1pm – 4 pm

Check Your Watershed Day is an annual event where you can get your feet wet and learn firsthand about your watershed! Volunteers will work with team leaders to check stream water temperatures throughout the Credit River watershed to help build a better understanding of critical areas for coldwater fish communities and restoration opportunities.

Location: TBD. Please refer to CVC website for upcoming details.

Details and Registration:

www.creditvalleyca.ca/about-cvc/events-calendar



The family is still always welcome – A Workday from the 80's or 90's. Can you identify the boys?

5. River Restoration at Upper Credit Conservation Area

Saturday, August 10. 9 am – noon

Come out and enjoy the Upper Credit Conservation Area while helping restore the river. We'll be building structures in the river to improve the Credit River. BBQ to follow. A great learning opportunity in partnership with Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club and CVC.

Location: 20073 Porterfield Road (Regional Road 136), Alton Ontario, L7K 1S9. Meet at parking lot on Porterfield Rd., south of Railway Tracks.

Details and Registration:

www.creditvalleyca.ca/about-cvc/events-calendar

6. Annual CVC Trout Spawning Surveys

October and November 2013. Date TBD

Come on out and enjoy the fall weather! CVC will be conducting spawning surveys to document the extent of trout reproduction occurring in reaches of the Credit River. No experience necessary! Training will be provided.

Location: TBD

Details & Registration: Lindsey Jennings at 905-670-1615 x445.

Check www.creditvalleyca.ca/about-cvc/events-calendar

Workday Dates

All workdays should be confirmed prior to participating in case of changes due to weather or rescheduling. Please check our website and the CVC website for updates.

Ontario & National Report

The Bronte Creek Renewal Program had another successful year with many new partners and volunteers. The construction of the Lowville Park restoration project was completed, with some plantings remaining. As a result of the restoration work, Brook Trout were found within the park for the first time in 55 years. 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.



Silvia D'Amelio

The Duffins Creek Headwaters Renewal Program, sponsored by Enbridge Gas Distribution was launched in 2012 and hosted tree plants and family friendly events. Fundraising is underway to continue work in the watershed with our partners.

Toronto Fundraising Dinner, chaired by CIBC, sold out this year with over 450 attendees raising over \$350,000 for conservation.

The Aquatic Renewal Program (stream rehabilitation training course) trained an additional 40 participants in the first three workshop series. Workshops 4-6, completing their training is scheduled for the fall of 2013.

In partnership with TU-US, the Ontario office is working on a Conservation Success Index for Brook Trout in Ontario. The first watershed to be assessed will be the Credit River. This product will identify and prioritize areas for conservation and protection of Brook trout populations, providing a tool to TUC and partners like CVC to build Brook Trout populations in the watershed.

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. In addition many chapters are keeping active in advocacy in local issues. TUC's monitoring and research programs continued in 2013.

The Calgary Dinner, chaired by Tervita, was a success grossing over \$800,000. Work is ongoing for the Edmonton Dinner and the National Office will be gearing up to begin organizing the Toronto Dinner.

Much National Staff time has been devoted to issues related to the new Federal Fisheries Act, its intent and implications for new Policy and Regulations. TUC has been providing input to this process to DFO and their Minister and ADM. Also, TUC and other partner CNGP's have been discussing the new Fisheries Partnership funding announced in the Federal Budget but we do not know what or how this money will flow and to whom.



20 Volunteers restoring our River. Who do you know?

The Notice Board

Greg Clark Chapter Monthly Working Meetings

You are invited to join us at monthly working meetings to participate in the ongoing work of the chapter. These meetings are held at the offices of INLINE SYSTEMS at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month from September to May at 96 Planchet Drive in Vaughan.

Chapter Webpage

Visit the Chapter webpage at:
www.tucanada.org/index.asp?p=1991
to keep you posted on upcoming Chapter events and to read our newsletters. There is also a history of the Chapter on the webpage.

Chapter Membership

If you haven't yet renewed your Chapter membership, please take a moment to do so. We really need you to help us protect, preserve and restore our valuable coldwater resources like the Credit River. You can renew on the Trout Unlimited website www.tucanada.org. Renewal now will extend your membership to the end of 2013. If you live in the Credit River watershed and want to help the river, we would like to welcome you to the Greg Clark Chapter. You can call Jack Mackay (416) 656-5277 or email jackson.mackay@sympatico.ca for further information.

Annual General Meeting

May 1, 2013 7:30 PM

Credit Valley Conservation Offices

1255 Old Derry Road., Mississauga

The agenda will include:

- Review of upcoming workdays
- Updates on C3 and on National/Ontario activities
- Budget report and Election of 2013-14 Chapter Directors

• **GCC Strategy to Assist Brook Trout Recovery – Discussion led by Brian Greck and Silvia D'Amelio**

Trout Unlimited Canada – Greg Clark Chapter

www.tucanada.org/index.asp?p=1991

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