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■ Fall Transfer

Find out details of the 2015 fall steelhead trout transfer conducted on the Saugeen River each fall and spring with our sister organization, Lake Huron Fishing Club

SEE PAGE 17



■ Online Store

Snag your Ontario Steelheaders gear including t-shirts, hats, jackets, decals and more. Look for the on-line store this fall as we will be offering sales on existing inventory.

SEE PAGE 6



Ontario Steelheaders 2015 Newsletter

A YEARLY PUBLICATION
WWW.STEELHEADERS.CA



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If you've ever caught and released a beautiful twelve pound steelhead trout, in hopes they will swim another day, you may want to consider its likely many of the fish you've released might have died hours later.

Join a thought experiment, review the statistics and learn how you can reduce your post-release mortality rates, collectively improving the steelhead population in the Saugeen River.

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Fish Out Of Water

■ 2015 Rod Gets the CRF Award



In the spring of 2015, Rod Jones was presented with the **Canadian Recreational Fisheries Award** for his long time commitment to the Ontario sport fishery.

Rod has been dedicated to the game for more than 40 years. Congratulations Rod! You are joining a small elite group of conservation-minded individuals.

You definitely deserve the recognition. Way to go Rod!

SEE MORE ON PAGE 14

President's Report

Well it's that time of the year again to let you all know what has and will take place within the OSS. Firstly, hopefully you all survived another long and cold Canadian winter our second in two years. Although these are hard on us Humans it is good for the water table and therefore for all the creatures that inhabit them. The Great lakes freeze almost solid across their surface area and this stops evaporation and keeps the levels of the systems up, which is good for everything that depends on them.

As of February 2015 the OSS is now Incorporated only took 30 plus years but we got there, so now the club has a constitution and Inc status.

We got some disturbing news recently from the MNRF that as of 2016 it will be the last year that the OSS and LHFC will be allowed to transfer adult Steelhead in both spring and fall as we have done for many years. The MNRF has decided to do a study for a number of years to see the effects of not transferring the adults, they will however still allow the OSS and LHFC to continue the raising and release of 50,000 yearlings into the Saugeen system. The MNRF however will stop raising the additional 35,000 yearlings at Chatsworth after this year.

Big thanks you again goes out the guys of the OSS and LHFC for another successful spring transfer of the adults to the upper Beatty and we hit the

magic 1000 again so wish them a well and thank them for a hard week of work.

The smolts from Kincardine have all been released as of May 30 and the few remaining smolts at Port Elgin will be released June 4 so again a big thank you to the very dedicated guys of both clubs for getting this done also.

After 2016, the OSS will need to come up with other projects for our club to focus so lets hear from you our membership on ideas that you feel may be good for the Saugeen and it's area.

The club still plans on expanding our Rod Jones pavilion and hope to have it done this year this will make for better Derbies and use as we all know the Derbies have been getting bigger and if the weather is bad there's always some people getting wet so by expanding we'll all benefit from it. Keep an eye on the website as we may need some bodies to help with the expansion.

Speaking of Rod Jones it gives me great pleasure to advise you all the Rod will be receiving the National Recreational Fisheries Award from Ocean and Fisheries for all his dedication and commitment for many years to the Saugeen River and it's surrounding area.

Rod received the award Friday May 8, so please, along with the Directors of Ontario Steelheaders





Ontario Steelheaders and Lake Huron Fishing Club Working in Cooperation

and myself, wish him a great WAY TO GO Rod thank you. For those of you who may not know Rod, here's a little history. Rod is one of the founding members of OSS. He was instrumental in building and caring for the up welling boxes when our first Steelhead eggs were incubated to fry and then released into the Beatty back in 1977.

After the boxes were discovered to not be the most successful Rod was the driving force to get things moving at the Mildmay Hatchery. When Mildmay was shut down Rod and some other key members of the OSS brokered a deal with the MNR and LHFC to start raising yearlings at the Kincardine hatchery where our yearlings are still raised. Rod also was the founder of the current Park on the bank of the Saugeneen, as when he heard that the SVCA was going to close the site therefore lessening the access to the river he approached the SVCA and leased the property to keep this open for members and the public.

So closing on that note please feel free to contact myself or any Director of the OSS with any comments or questions. Tight lines and good fishing!

Karl H. Redin
president@steelheaders.ca

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1e4e9az>

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Bruce Power™

Bruce Power has really been involved with the LHFC over the past two years supporting and funding many area projects and programs revolving around fish, water, monitoring, passage and education. Additionally, in April 2015, Bruce Power announced the creation of its Environmental and Sustainability Fund, which will award \$400,000 annually to projects focused on enhancing the environment.

From all of us at Ontario Steelheaders we want to thank all involved to better the area's water ways and fish populations.

Catch & Release: Steelhead Mortality Rates

Let's just say, for the purpose of this article, you're a catch and release angler. You release all or most of the steelhead, salmon and trout that you land on the bank of the Saugeen River; both wild and stocked.

More importantly, let's say you are an angler concerned about the future of sport fishing. You mostly likely have come to realize the future of any fishery lies in the preservation of genetic diversity. This can only be ensured through abundant wild adult fish.

Releasing wild fish keeps the genealogy of the fish flowing along naturally. Wild fish are exceptional to see and should be treated as such. The Saugeen stocked steelhead trout are not an exception to conserving re population efforts.

Now, I don't think any angler of good intentions wants to admit that their catch and release process, routinely kills fish. But these habits are often passed down the family line and can be hard to break even if they negatively impact the resource we think we are protecting by releasing the fish.

Consider the following scenario:

It's just after the March thaw. You are fishing with a buddy and hook six steelhead, land four and released all of them.

Three of the steelhead you landed, you hooked drifting a bright orange trout bead with a single hook.. Let's say, the water is high and colored making it difficult to find a place to land the fish on shore. For every fish hooked, you had to fight them longer than usual because the rapid current made it difficult to land the fish. Also note, each fish idled in the current downstream until it was exhausted.

In fact, that is when you lost the two fish. You were certain they were ready, but they made one last turn, the hook pulled free and those two won the fight. But not the other four.

As you land the first fish of the day, you walk up high on the bank to get it onto dry land. It flops around for a few before you can get the hook out of the corner of its lip. You holler over to your buddy to take a photo with his iPhone while your eyes comb the fish for markings, clips and generally



Make a difference! Keep your fish wet to reduce your release mortality rate.

admire the overall beauty of the colors displayed as the overhead sun illuminates the beautiful colors of this fish. Your buddy takes a minute to wade over to shore to capture this moment for you. Finally, he arrives and you get into position, hold the steelhead up for a picture or two and place the fish back in the water. You then hold the fish upright in the water for a few moments because that's what they say you should do to revive a tired fish, but this one surprises you with spunk and jets out of your hand and swims off into the muddy water.

Let's just say for this example, the four steelhead you landed responded similarly in catch and release. From your perspective, it would be reasonable to assume that all of the fish you put back survived after release because they swam off on their own and seemed healthy and lively when released.

Would you believe that the opposite might be true? More than likely, all four steelhead died from a long-term, delayed mortality, a bold truth difficult for the angler to confirm because in most instances, death occurs hours, if not days later.

In the scenario I created previously, you, the angler, made specific choices that directly affected the overall mortality of catch and release fishing. What we do once the hook is set has much more impact on a fish's survival than the expensive gear we choose to fight the fish.

It is widely promoted that a fish hooked in the corner of the mouth or outside the mouth experiences a 3% chance of mortality if it is landed promptly, kept in the water and released quickly. Mortality is determined greatly by our behavior, or habits rather.

Dr. Bruce Tufts is a professor of biology at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. He has studied the physiological effects of catch and release fishing since the 1980's. The findings from his research have helped shape catch and release regulations throughout North America.

According to Tufts, factors such as time out of water and length of fight combine to determine a released fish's chance of survival. In his study, "Physiological Effect of Brief Air Exposure in Exhaustively Exercised Rainbow Trout: Implications for "Catch and Release" Fisheries", Tufts studied the effect of time out of water periods of zero, 30

and 60 seconds for rainbow trout after exhaustive exercise.

In 57-degree water, after 12 hours of recovery time, the control group-- fish that were held in captivity but not exercised-- experienced no mortality. The group not exposed to air immediately after exercise experienced 12% mortality. The group exposed to air for 30 seconds after exercise experienced 38% mortality, and the group exposed to air for 60 seconds after exercise experienced 72% mortality. 7 out of 10 trout died after 12 hours when exposed to air for 60 seconds.

Catch & Release Mortality

FISH OUT OF WATER STUDY
TESTED AFTER EXHAUSTIVE FIGHT

No Air Exposure
12% Mortality

30 Sec Air Exposure
38% Mortality

60 Sec Air Exposure
72% Mortality

Tufts concluded, "...the brief period of air exposure which occurs in many "catch and release" fisheries is a significant additional stress which may ultimately influence whether a released fish survives". According to Tufts' study, any exposure to air significantly decreases a salmon, trout, or steelhead's chance for survival.

In the above fishing scenario, how long would it take you to land the fish, possibly clear the net, unhook the fish with pliers, take the pictures and then put the fish back into the river? Likely more than a minute.

So given the Tufts study, you may conclude if 7 out of 10 rainbow trout die after an air exposure of 60 seconds, then 3 of the 4 steelhead landed in the previous example, died within 12 hrs after release. Sixty seconds out of the water and you've killed 7 out of 10 fish. This is a disconcerting revelation.

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Memorial Plaques

As you may recall, a Memorial Plaque was affixed to the main rafter centered in the Rod Jones Pavilion and then officially dedicated last November. The inscription is to remember someone who has been a part of our park family in one way or another.

Now you may place a small memorial plaque of a family member, friend or acquaintance that you wish to add to the main plaque rafter. The park management together with the board of directors is asking that we initiate a standard for the mini plaques which will be no larger than 3 inches by 5 inches.

To proceed with this process, you can forward the name(s) to:

David Allen
6434 Bellevue Street,
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E1Z1
dave-allen@steelheaders.ca

The plaque will be a black background with white lettering. The cost of each plaque will be \$13.00 which includes the HST. Please include a check or money order made payable to: **David Allen**

Online Store Coming Soon

Soon we will have an easy way for non-members and members to purchase Ontario Steelheaders gear. We will be restocking all new merchandise and offering it for purchase not only at park events, but in our new online store on our website set to launch later this fall.

We will be offering hats, short and long sleeve t-shirts, decals, hoodies, jackets and more. These items are also available for purchase at the fall 2015 steelhead derby held at Denny's Dam Park derby on October 17, 2015.

We will be offering discounts, sales and coupon codes for merchandise of existing stock when we launch the online store. Support our efforts on the Saugeen River by making a purchase and be proud to show off that you are an Ontario Steelheader!

Kirk Lund
Merchandise Director
store@steelheaders.ca





LHFC

LHFC is a long standing club who has been supporting the Saugeen River and other local waters for many years now.

Please consider becoming a Lake Huron Fishing Club member. You will be supporting LHFC initiatives and efforts such as class-room program at local area schools, stream rehabilitation, trout and salmon hatcheries and other projects..

For more information visit:

lakehuronfishingclub.com

Laverne Will Be Missed

A member of the Lake Huron Fishing Club, Laverne Blacklock suddenly passed away on the morning of September 7, 2015.

If you knew this genuine man, you know how much he will be missed. If you did not know Laverne, you probably have fished next to or spoke about the weather with at one time or another as he was always about checking conditions engaging in friendly conversation.

He was a sole part of crew with Grant McAlpine at the Dennys Dam fish transfer and egg collection program. His efforts will never be forgotten. Laverne was an avid wood carver, custom rod builder and passionate fisherman.

Laverne will be severely missed by many on and around the Saugeen River and local area. The winter months will feel empty without him as he was one of the few locals picking fish off in muddy waters.

Rest In Peace Laverne.

Sincerely,
Ontario Steelheaders & Members

Disease Free

Every spring during egg collection we also collect about twenty (20) adult fish and send the sample fish to University of Guelph for testing. During this period, the laboratory checks for a variety of fish-related diseases.

At this time, results have been received and we are happy to report "NO DISEASES PRESENTED" in our sample fish! This is a great signal for our efforts in the Saugeen River.

Our Ministry liaison person is:

Matthew Brailey
Operations Coordinator
Chatsworth Fish Culture
Station



Ask the Warden

Is chumming with salmon or trout spawn/roe illegal?

A while ago, the Ontario Steelheaders introduced a new program for all to use titled "Ask The Game Warden".

A question has been put forward to the Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry and an appropriate response has been received - legal or not to chum with fish eggs.

Dave Allen
News and Media Director
news@steelheaders.ca

Mr. Redin,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the use of roe as chum, initially posed to Conservation Officer Hart Hill, Owen Sound Area in October. Seeing as this inquiry relates to fisheries policy, your question was forwarded to me and I'm pleased to respond.

Under the Ontario Fishery Regulations 2007 (section 28), (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2007-237/FullText.html>) individuals are prohibited from emptying bait, live bait fish or other contents of a bait bucket or other movable container into or within 30m of any waters.

Given that the roe has been transported in a container of some sort it would be unlawful under this provision to dump it into the water for use as chum.

These regulations are in place to reduce the introduction and establishment of invasive species or pathogens that can be transported with bait following misidentification or as a fellow-traveller in bait buckets.

Thank you again for your inquiry.

Matt Garvin
Fisheries Program Biologist
Fisheries Policy Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1R2cEHf>



Wild Trout Are Critical For Steelhead Populations

Genetic research is showing that healthy steelhead runs in Pacific Northwest streams can depend heavily on the productivity of their stay-at-home counterparts, rainbow trout.

Steelhead and rainbow trout look different, grow differently, and one heads off to sea while the other never leaves home. But the life histories and reproductive health of wild trout and steelhead are tightly linked and interdependent, more so than has been appreciated, a new Oregon State University study concludes.

The research could raise new challenges for fishery managers to pay equally close attention to the health, stability and habitat of wild rainbow trout, the researchers say, because healthy steelhead populations may require healthy trout populations.

In a field study in Hood River, Ore., researchers used DNA analysis to determine that up to 40 percent of the genes in returning steelhead came from wild rainbow trout, rather than other steelhead. And only 1 percent of the genes came from "residualized" hatchery fish – fish that had stayed in the stream and mated, but not gone to sea as intended by the hatchery program.

"It used to be thought that coastal rainbow trout and steelhead were actually two different fish species, but we've known for some time that isn't true," said Mark Christie, an OSU postdoctoral research associate and expert in fish genetic analysis. "What's remarkable about these findings is not just that these are the same fish species, but the extent to which they interbreed, and how important wild trout are to the health of steelhead populations."

This research, just published in the journal *Molecular Ecology*, was based on a 15-year analysis of 12,725 steelhead from Oregon's Hood River, each of which was sampled to determine its genetic background and parentage. It was supported by funding from the Bonneville Power Administration.

The study reveals a complex picture of wild trout and steelhead intermingling as they reproduce. A steelhead might be produced by the spawning of two steelhead, two wild trout, or a returning steelhead and a trout.

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Rainbow trout are small to moderate-sized fish in most rivers, but if that same fish migrates to the ocean it can return as a huge steelhead weighing 30 pounds or more, prized for sport fishing. Researchers still don't know exactly why some trout choose to go to the ocean and others don't, although they believe at least some part of the equation is genetic.

Studies of rainbow trout and steelhead have been undertaken, in part, to better understand the implications of hatcheries. Including all salmonid species, more than one billion hatchery salmon are released into Pacific Northwest streams each year. And because hatcheries produce fish that are less able to survive and successfully reproduce in the wild, there is concern about hatchery fish mating with wild fish.

"One implication of this study is that the genetic contribution by wild trout is diluting the input of genes from hatchery fish to the wild steelhead population," said Michael Blouin, an OSU professor of zoology and co-author on this study.

"The genetic influences of hatchery fish on wild steelhead populations are still a concern," Blouin said. "But the good news from the Hood River is

that the hatchery genes are being diluted more than we thought, and thus may not be having as much impact on dragging down the fitness of the wild steelhead."

The genetic influence of wild rainbow trout, the scientists said, is roughly cutting in half the genetic input of hatchery fish that reproduce in the wild – a mitigation of their impact that's of some importance.

The scientists cautioned that results from one river might not be representative of all steelhead populations. Nevertheless, Christie said, "The importance of trout in maintaining steelhead runs should not be underestimated.

Worth noting, the researchers said, is that most other salmonids, such as coho or chinook salmon, do not have this type of fall-back system to help produce fish with a higher capability of surviving. As such, they may be more vulnerable than steelhead to the concerns about genetic weaknesses produced by hatchery fish.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1P2OG1h>

Supporting Sponsors





John Vandivier Remembered

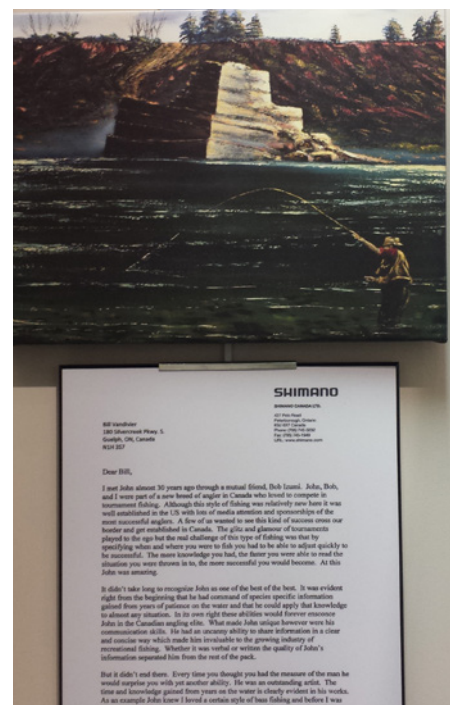
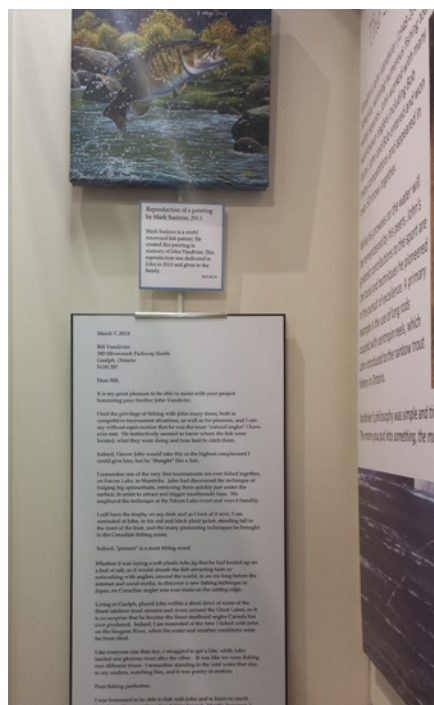
Recently, the John Vandivier exhibit was added at the Guelph Museum.

Guelph's John Vandivier (1948-2009) was one of the top anglers in North America, winning numerous fishing tournaments for a variety of fresh water species.

John worked with many well-known anglers including Bob Izumi. John and Bob entered and won many competitions and appeared in over 50 fishing shows together.

While his prowess on the water will be remembered by his peers, John's greatest contributions to the sport are the tools and techniques he pioneered in the pursuit of excellence. A primary example was in the use of the long rods coupled with the centrepin reels, which John introduced to rainbow trout fishery in Ontario.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1jff37e>



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Another consideration to take into account is the affects that take place when a fish is out of water and how detrimental it is to hold a fish out of water for long periods of time after landing it. Tufts stated in a 2004, In-Fisherman, article, "When you remove a fish from water the secondary lamellae in the gills collapse, inhibiting gas exchange".

So Imagine running 100 meters as fast as you can and when you cross the finish line someone grabs you my the back of the head and forces it under-water for a minute. What's your chance of mortality? Other studies have confirmed steelhead, salmon and other trout all breathe air about as well as we breath water.

Additionally, Tufts states in an article published in, Atlantic Salmon Journal, Spring 2001, "There's No Excuse Not to Stop Killing Salmon" that, "the studies have documented (delayed mortality) in salmon and other species...it is not something that occurs immediately after the period of exhaustive exercise therefore not something that would be apparent to an angler releasing a fish. Delayed mortality can occur in fish that appear absolutely normal at the start of the recovery period."

Additionally, Tufts does not take into account the affects of removing a fish's protective slime by netting and handling the fish, increasing the chance of bacterial growth on the skin after release and the accompanying increased stress levels. Nor does he address the mortality impacts

of hook placement and the increased blood loss from the most vital organ, delicate gill rake. Some states have even implemented laws requiring the use of single barbless hooks and keep fish in the water at all times if it is to be released to reduce the chance for post release mortality.

Catch and release fishing causes mortality at a rate higher than most well intended anglers could ever imagine. My conclusion is if I catch 20 wild steelhead in four days of fishing and handle them carelessly, it is possible that I might have killed 14 of them, some both wild and hatchery fish. That is six more than the eight fish, four day limit of whacking and stacking hatchery fish.

One has to ask, whose behavior is better for the natural resource? As a mostly catch & release angler, I don't want you to quickly conclude taking fish from the system is a best case scenario. I only suggest you to take a few moments the next time your land a fish and think about this article. Pay attention to your habits and ponder how you can reduce your mortality rate to improve the chances of repopulation of steelhead in the head waters of the Saugeen River.

To end our thought experiment, the page to the right lists a six simple ways to decrease the mortality rates with some simple practices and awareness.

My conclusion: Keep them wet.



Have a friend help you quickly release your fish to lower your post-release mortality.

6 Ways To Reduce Mortality

Keep Them Wet

When possible, keep the fish in the water with the head submerged. Get down on your knees, wait for the fish to calm down and carefully remove the hook with a pair of pliers. Sure your hands may get cold, but you won't care after landing that 12 pounder. Use a towel to dry your hands and they will air-dry quickly so you can slide them back into those toasty fleece or wool gloves.

Use a Net

Use a net or cradle with a rubber or soft mesh. Hard nylon is too hard on the fish. If you can get to shore, slide the fish into the net but leave it in the water. If you net the fish from the boat, don't bring the fish into the boat. Leave it hanging over the side. Alternatively, if a net isn't in your arsenal, use safe fish handling gloves, similar to what we use during our annual fish transfers.

Be Gentle

Don't rip the hook out of the mouth. Gently back it out, the direction it went in. Even with a barb, if the hook is lodged in the corner of the mouth or lips, the hook should come out easily with a soft tug. If the hook is buried in a gill rake, down in the gullet or buried in the tongue, don't remove it. The fish's chances of survival with such a hook placement are reduced as it is. Removing a barbed hook from these areas will certainly kill it. Clip the leader, leaving at least 18 inches trailing outside the mouth and do your best to revive the fish. The old myth that the hook will dissolve over time can be questioned when one uses stainless steel or chrome hooks designed not to rust.

Quick Release

When you are ready to release the fish, gently hold it upright in the nearest moving water. Don't move it back and forth. This drives water and sediments under the gill plate from the wrong direction inhibiting the all important gas exchange, effectively smothering the fish. The faster the current, the more oxygenated the water, potentially decreasing mortality. When the fish seems ready to go, hold on to it a little longer. Its fins should be erect and its movements positive. Most fish will bolt from the hand out of fear when they start to get their senses back but haven't recovered enough to hold themselves upright in the current. Studies, including Tufts, conclude if allowed to swim away prematurely, they likely roll over and die under a rock somewhere downstream. Have someone help you quickly release your fish to lower your post-release mortality.

Don't Touch the Gills

Don't touch the gills. The angler who puts his fingers into the gills of a fish they plan to release, for whatever reason, has probably killed that fish by damaging the delicate lamellae needed for gas exchange (breathing).

Use Barbless

While there is no evidence barbless hooks reduce mortality, it would be safe to assume the landing procedure may be quicker. Using barbless hooks may allow you to pull the hook out quickly with your bare hands, reducing time out of water using pliers or hemostats. An added bonus is barbless is effortless to pull out of gloves and jackets.

Article Sources

Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
<http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1139/f92-129>

Keep Them Wet
<http://www.keepemwet.org/>



CRF Awarded To Rod Jones

*Article Taken from Blackburn News

Brantford, Ontario - Today, Phil McColeman, Member of Parliament for Brant, on behalf of the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, presented a 2015 National Recreational Fisheries Award to Mr. Rod Jones.

Mr. Jones is a long-time volunteer whose dedicated efforts have contributed to the Lake Huron-Bruce County area's fish habitat and sustainable recreational fishing. He is one of the founding members of the Ontario Steelheaders, a non-profit organization in its fourth decade with which he has been involved for over 30 years.

During his tenure, Mr. Jones helped implement several improvements affecting the fish habitat and watershed in and around the Saugeen River basin. He was instrumental to the success of many local projects, including adult rainbow trout transfers, egg collections, stream rehabilitation and fish stocking. Because of his leadership, the Saugeen's rainbow trout population has grown exponentially from 1,500 returning migratory steelheads to over 30,000. In short, his long-standing commitment has made him the area's "go-to-person."

Mr. Jones has also engaged with youth members with similar goals and passion to sustain projects that will help ensure a sustainable rainbow trout fishery well into the future. In addition, his recruitment efforts have helped build the Ontario Steelheaders' membership to over 200 people.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1xo8l40>



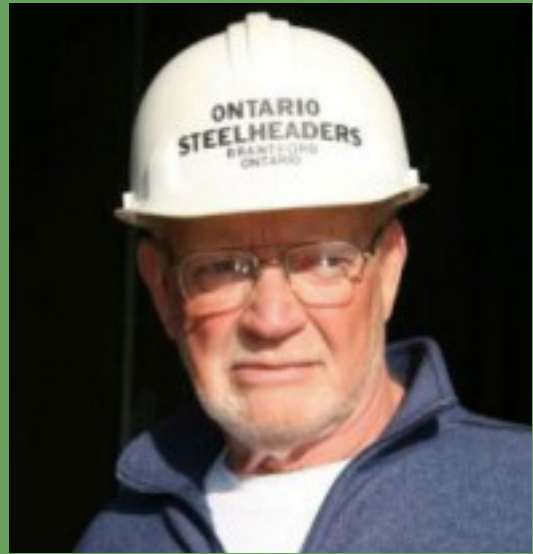
Quick Facts

Canada's National Recreational Fisheries Awards were created in 1989 to recognize outstanding contributions by individuals and organizations in areas such as recreational community leadership, restoring and enhancing fisheries and fish habitat or promoting conservation and sustainable recreational fishing.

Recreational fishing represents an important economic, social and cultural contribution to Canada. Approximately 3.3 million adult anglers participated in recreational fishing in the country in 2010, of which 924,000 were in Ontario. Moreover, recreational fishing in the country contributes approximately \$8.3 billion to local economies from coast to coast to coast according to the most recent survey on the topic.

The Government of Canada has already committed \$25 million to restore and preserve fishery habitat through the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program and in the Economic Action Plan 2015, it announced an additional \$10 million.

Rod Jones



Rodney Jones is a old-school, hardass steelheader who was one of the original club founding members. He has committed a large part of his life to helping bring initiatives together to better the Saugeen River for years to come.

Quotes From the Award Ceremony

"Recreational fisheries have tremendous social and economic importance to Ontario and indeed, to all of Canada. That is why our Government is committed to supporting the individuals and organizations who are working along the shores of Canadian lakes, rivers and streams to protect and restore fishing habitat for future generations. The Government of Canada is proud to recognize the hard work of Mr. Rod Jones and congratulates him for his 2015 National Recreational Fisheries Award."

Phil McColeman, Member of Parliament for Brant

"I would like to thank the dedicated volunteers--both long-time and new--for the many years of working together to make the Saugeen River the greatest steelhead river in Ontario. On behalf of all the volunteers, I proudly accept this award."

Rod Jones, 2015 National Recreational Fisheries Award recipient

"I feel the recognition for the dedication and commitment that Rod has freely given has been outstanding to the nation's recreational fisheries and fish habitat."

Karl Redin, President of Ontario Steelheaders



OS Receives a Special Gift

Ontario Steelheaders wants to thank the Brantford Steelheaders club for making a difference with the Ontario Steelheaders, Saugeen watershed and improving the Saugeen's wild aquatic habitat.

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In the formation of the Ontario Steelheaders (OSH) organization some 35 years ago, chapters were created in the form of sub groups within the province basically to focus on their local watersheds. Approximately 5 regional chapters were born. Unfortunately due to the provincial graphics, some chapters started to break away from main OSH but still committed to work on their own.

The last remaining chapter was the Brantford Steelheaders that worked to improve the Grand River watershed and its tributaries. To date, many have benefited from the long hours, hard work and the dedication from this chapter and deserve a BIG round of applause.

Recently, our president Karl Redin, was informed by the executive of the Brantford Steelheaders that it was

time to close the doors and end its role as a chapter of the OSH organization.

But with this came an unexpected gift from Brantford chapter to the OSH, the transfer of their cash balance in the amount of \$3441.00 to help us continue our work. Job well done from executive and members of the former "Brantford Steelheaders". This donation will assist the OSH to carry on its work on the Saugeen watershed such as fish transfers, hatchery costs, etc.

On behalf of the OSH executive and all our members, our hats are off to you and again a BIG THANK YOU to the Brantford Steelheaders organization.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1Nt2e63>

PARTNER WITH US!

Partnerships are key to success. We are constantly on the hunt for new partnerships. If you are a club, business or organization actively involved with improving Ontario watersheds and want to partner with us, we want to hear from you!

Contact us on our website: <http://steelheaders.ca/partnerships> to get the conversation started!



Fall Steelhead Transfer 2015

Ontario Steelheaders wants to thank Grant McAlpine, his crew and the Lake Huron Fishing Club for their continuous efforts year after year to make the Saugeen River a world-class steelhead trout fishery.

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As the nights grow colder and the trees bless us with the vibrant colors that fill our memories of great fall steelheading, Grant McAlpine of LHFC and his team of dedicated volunteers are gearing up for the hard work involved our annual fall fish transfer.

Every year the Ontario Steelheaders and Lake Huron Fishing Club work collectively to trap and lift, sort, identify and transfer steelhead trout up river.

The Saugeen River has approximately 20 dams on the water system. The Ontario Steelheaders has annually used customized aquariums on wheels for transporting these delicate trout up river to provide to help a few lucky fish expedite the journey of the 20 dams and other obstructions existing on the Saugeen and headwaters.

Fall Schedule

Want to volunteer and handle some monstrous steelhead? The lift schedule is short notice and can vary depending on temperature and clarity of water. You can find the latest egg collection news and updates posted online:

Website

<http://steelheaders.ca/news>

Facebook

<http://steelheaders.ca/facebook>

Twitter

<http://steelheaders.ca/twitter>



GET INVOLVED

Member or not, here are a few ways can do their part to show support. Please consider any of the ways below to help the efforts of the Ontario Steelheaders. Visit our website for more information: <http://www.steelheaders.ca/get-involved>

Become a Member

We welcome you to join our growing membership. Help us make a significant impact on steelhead fisheries in Ontario, particularly the Saugeen River.

See back page for member application.

Make a Donation

Give back to the Saugeen River you enjoyed as a childhood or you actively fish today. Any donation amount is appreciated and proceeds go directly to the rehabilitation and hatchery processes.

Use Denny's Dam Park

Our affordable vehicle parking and overnight camping fees go to fund the park and its expenses. Additional proceeds from the park are passed on to the Ontario Steelheaders towards rehabilitation and fishery efforts. Visit our website for more information.

Report Poaching & Harvesting

We have all seen people poaching and harvesting fish and eggs. This behavior is not only illegal but disrespectful to the volunteers over the years who have worked so hard to make the Saugeen River the great fishery it is. Do your part and report any signs of poaching or harvesting of rainbow trout or salmon.

Submit Your Photos

Submit your photos to us and we will post them on the website and possibly use them in the newsletter.

Submit your photos using our website or email them to: photos@steelheaders.ca

Write an Article

If you are a member, and not able to make events to volunteer, consider writing a short article story once a year. The articles published in our newsletter and website help us bring more awareness to our projects.

Sponsor an Event

Sponsor one of our events to promote your business. Egg collection, fish transfers, derbies and other events can all be sponsored to show your support for local conservation.

Contact president@steelheaders.ca

Buy Steelheaders Gear

Members and non-members can purchase Ontario Steelheaders merchandise to show support. Watch for new and discounted merchandise in our online store this fall!

Wanna Catch 20 Pound Steelhead Everyday?



Anything is Possible!

The Ontario Steelheaders, in its fifth decade, is a not-for-profit network of dedicated volunteers. We are continuously working to provide steelhead sport-fishing opportunities on the Saugeen River. In partnership with local organizations, government bodies and agencies can positively affect the fishery resource by continuing efforts to make the Saugeen River one of the premiere steelhead trout east of the Mississippi.

After years of dedicated work, our dedication have shown results. We have claimed approximately 50,000 steelhead trout are returning every spring to spawn in streams and headwaters connected to the mighty Saugeen River.

Steelhead trout, also known as rainbow trout on steroids, are raised in hatcheries in Kincardine in coalition with Lake Huron Fishing Club and released as yearlings in the headwaters of the Saugeen River.

Statistics are great, but the efforts of the Ontario Steelheaders can be seen with your own eyes on days when the fishing is amazing, in turn drawing hundreds of fisherman to the Saugeen River on a daily basis. Sights like this, prove how well our efforts as a club, combined with other organizations, have impacted the Saugeen River.

Not only does this drive commerce and impact tourism in a positive way for local area businesses but it also puts the Saugeen River on

the map as a premier Canadian steelhead river.

From past successes, the directors and members of our club believe **anything is possible for the future of the steelhead species flourishing on the Saugeen River.**

The results we have achieved have already surpassed well beyond our expectations.

Fighting hefty twenty plus pound steelhead is a possibility on the Saugeen River but it will take serious effort from more members, volunteers including creating more programs to fund our projects.

We need your help!

Our hard work can't stop now. Our collective efforts need to continue to sustain the momentum we have achieved up to this point.

If you have experienced fishing the Saugeen River and currently not an active member, consider renewing or joining our club. Show your support and maybe your children or grandchildren can have the same Saugeen experience as you. Consider the other ways to make a difference beyond becoming a member (see page 18).

If you want to become a member of the Ontario Steelheaders, please see the back page for membership form and online signup options.



Study: Shaded Waters Protect Trout

As global climate change, droughts and hot summers continue, many streams and headwaters will flow with low water, which could put fish into a more vulnerable situation when being preyed on by birds such as hawks and eagles.

A new study has found that adequate shade and cover in streams could reduce bird consumption of trout by as much as 12 percent, from only one species of bird – the kingfisher. This study originated from the Oregon Hatchery Research Center in the Alsea River basin, and published in the journal *Ecology of Freshwater Fish*.

Using coastal cutthroat trout and suggested individual fish sought cover at least as large as their own bodies. The addition of in-stream cover reduced the rate of predation from kingfishers by 12 percent and maintained better survival in areas with greater shade.

Jason Dunham, an aquatic ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and co-author on the study

stated, "It is generally assumed that shade is good for fish solely because of temperature.

This study shows shade can make it more difficult for kingfishers to spot and catch fish. Kingfishers are the number one predators of small trout," said Penaluna, who led the research as a doctoral student in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University. She said, "We're able to tell fisheries managers that they may be able to increase their trout population by 12 percent – and it may be higher. It is possible that adding shade and cover to small streams may help protect trout against other predators as well."

Would improving shade and natural cover to the Saugeen River headwaters and streams help boost steelhead populations?

Its possible.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1Nt1aix>



Spring 2015 Adult Fish Transfer

Every spring, we trap 1,000 pre-spawn adults at Denny's Dam and transport them 50 miles up river to the Beatty Saugeen and it's great spawning waters. We only lower the trap twice a day for only an hour and trap approximately 500 plus fish a day in the two lifts. We can only handle 50 fish in each of the 3 trailers a trip. It took a little more than five days to capture the thousand adults. Adults average 7 pounds plus, but we always see fish over 15 pounds. The fish are driven to the Beatty and tubed into the stream.

The 2015 spring entailed four very long days to complete our annual spring adult steelhead trap and transport program on Ontario's Saugeen River. Lots of tough work on the boys and their trucks. Next efforts are to stock 50,000 yearling smolt. The Saugeen now see runs of 40,000-50,000 adults yearly due to volunteer efforts. Some of us are getting a little old for this type of workout.

Final Spring Numbers: 1000 steelhead trout transfered up river, 100K eggs collected in Spring of 2015.

Darryl Choronzey

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1NsYHod>



Asian Carp Found in Ontario

Three Asian Grass Carp have been found in the waters around the Toronto Islands marina. In the evening hours of Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015, Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) staff caught two Asian Grass Carp while monitoring fish species in the area. The third was found late in the day on Wednesday, Sept. 2 in the same vicinity.

The Grass Carp were immediately sent to a Fisheries and Oceans Canada laboratory in Burlington for further investigation. The first fish found was 23 pounds, the second weighed 36 pounds and the third was 20 pounds.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2015, crews in electro-fishing and trap net boats from TRCA, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have been conducting coordinated searches for Asian Grass Carp.

Grass Carp is one of several species in a group of fish known as Asian Carp. They are native to Eastern Asia and have been used in North America, primarily as a food source and also as a means for managing aquatic vegetation. Where they have proliferated in parts of the United States, Grass Carp have had a negative effect on the ecosystem, as well as on the commercial and recreational fishery. Grass Carp feed extensively on aquatic vegetation, often uprooting large areas of vegetation, thus depleting other native fish species. Grass Carp differ from the Common Carp found in Lake On-

tario which were introduced to Ontario in the 1800's.

This summer, five live Grass Carp have been found on Toronto's waterfront. In addition to this week's findings, two were discovered in July in Tommy Thompson Park. While the discovery of this invasive species in Lake Ontario warrants further monitoring and analysis, circumstances leading to its presence are still unclear. At present, not enough is known to draw conclusions about its source or potential ecological impact.

In recent decades, TRCA has worked to monitor and restore fish habitats along Toronto's waterfront and the watersheds that feed into it, restoring significant populations of native fish species that were decimated as Toronto grew. With the expansion of wetlands, improvements to shorelines, including the installation of fish habitats along the waterfront, pike, walleye and bass populations have flourished.

TRCA continues to work in the field and on the water in cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and other agencies engaged in the protection of the Toronto region waterways from damaging invasive species.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1OpRHHa>



Trout Hatchery Update

Until we get better access around and over Maple Hill dam, the great Saugeen fishery is dependent on much of the success of the Lake Huron Fishing Club's Kincardine Hatchery. I've been around the CFIP hatchery game from the start and never witnessed another facility that can compare to this fish production factory.

From the start the man behind the facility has been Al Wilkins and trust me, he knows his stuff. One hundred thousand eggs and sperm are collected by the volunteer members of the Steelheaders and LHFC at Denny's Dam and transported directly to the hatchery, where they are fertilized, hatched and raised for 12 months.



A hell of a lot of work and patience is involved in producing what I believe are the best steelhead smolt to be found anywhere on the Great Lakes. There's fertilizing, picking eggs, teaching them how to feed, removing the misfits, cleaning the tanks and just straight 12 months of baby sitting.

Before they are released, every one of these 50,000 plus little guys have their adipose fins removed for later identification when caught or transferred as adults. This is cold tedious work.

At the end of the 12 months all 50,000 plus steelhead smolt have grown to larger than 8 inches and are stocked at Walkerton, Ontario 50 miles



up river from Lake Huron for perfect imprinting and maximum returns as adults back to the river and waiting anglers.

Getting a little old for this game, but believe me please, I've never witnessed anything over years, like I've seen with the success of this program. One hell of a hatchery. One hell of a success story.

As a collective effort between the two clubs and working with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources an amazing success story.

D. Choronzey

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1P30j8o>

Did You Know?

It costs approximately \$100/day just to feed the trout raised in the Kincardine hatchery. If you are interested in donating or volunteering your time at the hatchery, please contact Al Wilkins directly for more information.

Al Wilkins 519-389-0000

Salmon Poacher Nabbed

The old adage if first you don't succeed, try, try again may not have worked in one man's favour after fish and wildlife officers charged him with poaching salmon twice in central Newfound- land.

Officers began investigating possible illegal net- ting and improper use of all-terrain vehicles in the Lumsden area after receiving anonymous tips in early July.

The investigation led officers from the Gander detachment to stop two men on ATVs near Windmill Bight Brook for allegedly violating the Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act.

A search of the ATV turned up 13 untagged salmon.

Moreover, the driver of the ATV was thought to be impaired, so officers called on the New-West- Valley RCMP who arrested the man and later re- leased him.

It's also alleged the passenger on the ATV tried to destroy the evidence by attempting to throw the salmon away, said the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

In the meantime, fish and wildlife officers searched Windmill Bight Brook for the net used in catching the salmon illegally. While officers were surveying the area, they watched as a man arrived on the scene on an ATV and began hauling a net filled with 24 salmon.

Turns out, it was the same man that had been caught with salmon and charged with impaired driving earlier.

Both men face a slew of charges for violations of the Federal Fisheries Act, the Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act.

The driver of the ATV is facing additional charges of impaired driving and operating a vehicle while suspended.

Two ATVs, 37 Atlantic salmon and one round of 12-gauge ammunition was seized.



POACHERS BEWARE!



RiverWatch

**Program
in effect**

The Ontario Steelheaders
are committed to protecting this fishery.

Exceeding harvest limits, fishing in sanctuaries,
and snagging are all illegal activities

Possession limit of Rainbow Trout on this river
is **2** fish. (one for conservation license)

Poachers will be reported!
Protect your fishery - Report a violation
1-877-TIPS-MNR

C.F.I.P.


Poaching Is a Crime

Conservation Officers are supporting members of Crime Stoppers. If you want to report anonymous tips and be eligible for a cash reward...call Crime Stoppers!



TARGET | CIBLONS
POACHING | le BRACONNAGE

24/7 1 800 222-TIPS (8477)

More Poachers Also Got Caught

Lake Simcoe angler from Mississauga was in possession of 95 Cisco and only produced 2 to Conservation Officers on March 8th, 2014.

Officers discovered a bag full of cisco behind the ice hut following the inspection. The individual was also charged for fishing without a licence, catching and retaining cisco during closed season, obstructing a conservation officer and unlawfully using another persons licence. A previous conviction for angling without a licence was considered in sentencing. The male was fined \$3,700 dollars and will be prohibited to fish for the next 5 years.

Two men from Markham, Ontario fined a total of \$4,000 for a 45 black crappie overlimit from Lake Scugog.

The anglers were checked while returning to shore on May 14th, 2014 after a one day fishing trip in the Kawartha Lakes Region. Inspection of the live holding tank revealed 105 Black Crappie when the anglers licenses only allowed them to keep 60. It is an offence to transport live fish overland. Limits are set in place so that anglers and other resource users may enjoy a sustainable fishery.

Illegal Caviar from Ontario Lake Sturgeon and meat lead 2 men from Richmond Hill to \$20,750 in fines and probation orders.

Three men were stopped coming out of the Mississagi River in the town of Blind River, Ontario claiming they had salmon in their vehicle when stopped by Conservation Officers. Upon inspection the Conservation Officers located 27 pounds of Lake Sturgeon Eggs and 4 pounds of meat. The Lake Sturgeon is listed as a Threatened Species under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

Support Our Key Sponsors



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A Quick Recap



Just to give you a quick recap and idea of what has been going on over the past 10 years with all of the combined efforts of LHFC, MNR and Ontario Steelheaders.

We increased the adult migration by double. 1,000 adults trucked 65 miles upstream to the Beatty in the spring and 500 adults each fall. The purpose to really kick start natural reproduction in the best stretch of the entire system. We also utilized the Otter for some of the adults.



Two different strains, to give us great autumn, winter and spring fishing. We also initiated improvements on the Walkerton Fishway and the new fishway at Maple Hill. All again to get the adults into prime spawning water.

The Beatty has an additional 40 miles of gravel and great rearing habitat. Hopefully this summer we get the go ahead to do more passage work at Maple Hill and get the present breach at Walkerton widened to allow even easier passage of rainbow trout in the future. Maple Hill still needs more work on the old fishway.



Just as important and probably most important to our present sport fishery, is the 50,000 plus rainbow trout smolt raised and released by the Lake Huron Fishing Club and supported with funds and labour by the Ontario Steelheaders.....AND AGAIN WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THE MNR TO MAKE THIS FISHERY PROJECT WORK!

More Great Sponsors



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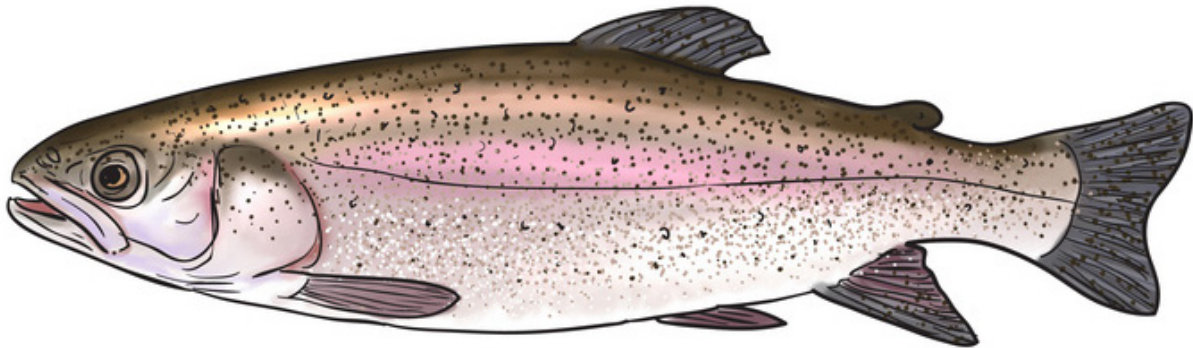
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Mysterious NY Steelhead Deaths



In November 2014, a slew of reports of steelhead floating upside down and experiencing erratic behavior on Lake Erie tributaries in New York.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation is continuing to study reports of dead and erratic-acting steelhead in the Salmon River and other Lake Ontario tributaries in New York.

In January 2015, the DEC stated the fish are exhibiting "signs of stress and elevated mortality rates due to an apparent thiamine (Vitamin B) deficiency." The most likely source of that is the ingesting of alewives. Alewives, an invasive bait fish in the Great Lakes that salmon and steelhead feed predominately on, are known to contain thiaminase, an enzyme that degrades thiamine.

"A thiamine deficiency can impact egg quality and survival of eggs and nearly hatched fish, and in severe cases, can cause the death of adult fish," according to the DEC.

If in fact alewives are the source of the problem, it's not clear why this year is any different than any other. The DEC has not released any information on whether the bait fish are this year are exhibiting elevated levels of thiaminase - and what might be the cause behind that.

Dead fish from the Salmon River have been analyzed Cornell University Aquatic Animal Health Program, which ruled out fish pathogens (a vi-

-rus or bacteria) as the cause of the problem. The DEC has also sent steelhead fillets and organ samples from dead fish to the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Appalachian Research Facility for further testing. Results "strongly indicated" a severe thiamine deficiency as the cause for the dead steelhead.

Meanwhile, staff from the DEC's Rome Fish Hatchery Disease Control Unit and the Salmon River Hatchery are "preemptively injecting" adult steelhead returning to the hatchery in Altmar with thiamine. Thiamine-injected fish will be held in outdoor raceways at the hatchery and fed a diet fortified with vitamin B to improve the likelihood of successful steelhead egg collections in 2015."

"Although moderate thiamine deficiencies are not uncommon in top predator fish such as salmon, lake trout and steelhead in Lake Ontario and its waters, this year's acute deficiency is atypical in its severity. DEC staff will continue to collaborate with experts to further understand the circumstances leading to this year's mortality," DEC said.

Little can be done, though, for the rest of the steelhead that are unable to ascend the river and reach the hatchery's holding facilities.

The investigation is ongoing.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1R2gb8J>



GEAR SWAP

Don't miss our online classified section on our website. Anyone can list equipment for free. There categories for you to sell your fishing, camping and RV gear. We ask all members, take a minute and list an item that is collecting dust so we can get this online resource some action!

You can find the online classified section for fishing, camping and RV gear located at:

<http://www.steelheaders.ca/gear-swap>



1572 Victoria St. N Kitchener, ON
1-888-MAX-FISH

NEXT DERBY

The Ontario Steelheaders Saugeen River Fall Derby is coming up in October. We welcome all members and non-members to come enjoy a day of fun with family and friends for a friendly competition of who can land the biggest fish of the day.

The derby is held at Denny's Dam Park on the Saugeen River near Southampton. Dinner is served at the Rod Jones Pavilion, where we have draw-prizes, raffles, merchandise, club updates, guest speakers, derby prizes and biggest steelhead trout trophies are awarded. Overnight camping and day use at Denny's Park on the Saugeen is available for participants and their families.

Derby Location

Denny's Dam Park
Southampton, ON

Visit our website for more info and a map to the park's location.

Date

Fall Derby: October 17, 2015
*River conditions permitting
Alt. Date: October 24, 2015

Time

Derby: 7AM - 5PM
Dinner served at 5:30PM
Raffle & ceremony at 6PM

Entry Fee

Price: \$10 donation
*Price subject to change.

Prize Donations

Submit to Scott Redin:
Email: derby@steelheaders.ca

Saugeen Steelhead Derby

Well the fall 2014 derby was a soaker but that is to be expected, at least since I have taken over running the show. All of the winners and weights have already been posted on our website, so to keep this short winded I won't get into those details.

The 2015 spring derby was delightfully the best derby I have run weather wise. Fishing was a little tougher the normal, but still produced some nice fish. We had 80 Sr. anglers and 8 juniors this derby. 1st place went to Greg Allen with a wild female weighing 7.4lbs, 2nd place was our first female to make the podium Deb Zettler with a stocked OS fish at 7.1lbs and last but not least in 3rd was Mike Sousa also with a stock OS fish at 6.9lbs & the live release caught by Steven Lombard was a wild fish 28.5" Great job guys and gal.

Now, I would like to thank our amazing sponsors and food suppliers. The club is most gracious for our continued support from Angling Outfitters in Woodstock, Hammond Power Solutions, Black Bird Tackle Pure Fishing Canada in Brantford, Ron Plasket – (with some of the best gag prizes ever, can believe buddy took the gag over the FWF Custom 13' float rod), Sauble Area Mens Club, Pete Barber & many others. Now to the food! Once again Q BBQ Eatery did a top notch job on the brisket, Carls Custom Meats nailed the burgers and dogs and all the park patrons that donated salads and side dishes. Our hats are off to you, thanks so much and I couldn't put on this great event without you all.

I would also like to give a big shout out to Carlo, Paul & Jake for helping with the cooking & Erica King and Carol Tuner for the awesome job they did hustling all those raffle tickets, this raises a great deal of money for the club and our project such as our stocking project on the Saugeen river. I hope to see you all the weekend after Canadian Thanksgiving for our annual fall derby.

Tight Lines.

Scottie Redin
Derby & Events Director



Spring 2015

Derby Results

1st Greg Allen
7.4 lbs

2nd Deb Zettler
7.1 lbs

3rd Mike Sousa
6.9 lbs

.....

Live Release
Steven Lombard
28.5 in

Junior Division
N/A



Spring Creek Invertebrate Study

Dr. Jim Hamilton, his wife and fellow professor Katherine, and 8 students (2 graduate, 6 undergraduate) from Wilfrid Laurier University conducted invertebrate studies in the upper and cedar rapids, in Spring Creek on September 27, which will serve as a baseline for measuring the oxygenation impact resulting from the oxygen generator project currently underway at Spring Creek.

Oxygen will be provided to 3 major springs as required, in late summer/early fall, to maintain an optimum dissolved oxygen level in the upper portion of Spring Creek.

Best regards,

Bill Nafziger
Hepworth Anglers Club

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1jSz0AO>

Thank You SVCA



In Partnership together with the Friends of the Saugeen, we want to thank Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for their ongoing efforts on the Saugeen River.

Connect With Us Online

Web Videos



Chinook Spawning

<http://bit.ly/1GzY9oI>

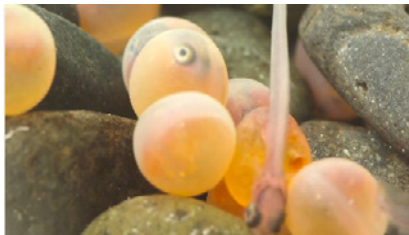
Watch this revealing video of chinook salmon females laying eggs, males fertilizing and even trout sneak in and grab some eggs for breakfast!



Salmon Cannon

<http://bit.ly/1LlkThG>

Watch as salmon are sent down a tube that spirals around a dam like an amusement park ride and launches the fish through the air into the water above a dam.



Steelhead Egg Hatching

<http://bit.ly/1MjnmKc>

Watch steelhead trout emerge and hatch from fertilized eggs. Its a beautiful sight to see nature at work.

Find us on 

<http://facebook.com/OntarioSteelheaders>



<http://twitter.com/ONSteelheaders>

Another Great Sponsor



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One Dam Down, Many More To Go!

In late 2014, The SVCA was approved for funding up to \$125,000 to support its project that involves the removal of the Lockerby Dam, which is located in the Municipality of Arran Elderslie between Chesley and Paisley. Additionally, Bruce Power aided with support for the dam removal.

The removal of the dam was considered by SVCA for a number of years since a report was completed in 2006 that recommended the removal of the dam and the rehabilitation of the reservoir.

The removal of the aging concrete dam, a current barrier for upstream fish migration, improves the fish habitat both upstream and downstream with key improvements to water quality in the North Saugeen River.

On August 21, 2015 the Lockerby Dam was removed and a natural, unobtrusive, natural waterway was left in place.

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1P2CKN0>



(519)787-4359 <http://www.grandriveroutfitters.ca>

Membership Update

The membership roster keeps growing and we are just over 275 members strong. Keep in mind that many memberships have expired this May so it would be nice to see those who have been supporting us to recommit and renew their memberships again. We can't thank you enough for the support.

The new website still has some issues periodically but for the most part, I have received positive feedback. Our website continues to expand and word continues to get out about the work that we are doing. Please keep the articles, reports, and pictures coming as this enables us to generate a newsletter collectively without placing the entire onus on one individual.

I want to express our thanks to all the members who continue to offer their services to volunteer and who are out there promoting the benefits of membership to others in hopes of soliciting new members – YOUR efforts are recognized and they DO make a difference.

I continue to view my role as Membership Director as being an interactive role. I have the responsibility to ensure that our members receive the information, handouts, memos, updates etc. that our directors prepare for us. I hate to sound like a broken record but.....

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE – MAKE SURE THAT I HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS AND ALL CONTACT INFORMATION. We have received returned mail and email's stating incorrect addresses and if I don't have your phone number, I have no way of making sure that you receive the information that we are disbursing. As such if you haven't been receiving any communications then you may want to check in with me to ensure that I have all your accurate information.

I continue to ask for any and all of your input regarding any suggestions that you may have, as this is YOUR organization and your input is valued. Please send your comments to: membership@steelheaders.ca, or include them with your membership renewal.

I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead of us in the coming year. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions regarding your membership or club communications, and I would be only too happy to assist.

Madeline Walker
Membership Director
membership@steelheaders.ca

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1Llmjc8>



Dennys Dam Park Update

Please be advised that Denny's Dam Park is now closed to motor vehicle traffic from December 1st to April 1st. The Ontario Steelheaders (OSH) in cooperation with Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) has had to take upon the expense of having a gate built and installed at the entrance turn to prevent any motor vehicle from entering the park to avoid damage to the grounds.

Unfortunately, last year someone snow plowed through the park, allowing vehicle traffic during the winter months and created an extensive amount of damage. This was an expensive repair to the property. Direction from the SVCA was recommended and approved.

The park is owned by to the SVCA and the OSH manages this property for all to enjoy. Remember, we are blessed with premiere steelhead fishing in Ontario. To ensure that we continue to have access to this property, we must we maintain the grounds as well as our ongoing work with the fisheries.



The installation of the gate doesn't mean that fisherman can't fish in the park during the winter time frame; it just means that you cannot drive a motor vehicle into the park area.

Anyone found damaging the park property including the gate will be reported to the Ontario Provincial Police / Local Police Authorities and the SVCA. Charges will be laid under the Criminal Code of Canada and the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario.

Respectfully,

Ontario Steelheaders - Board of Directors
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority



Some Park Moments This Year



Yearling Report

The Big Thaw! Spring Is In The Air! And the boys have been busy getting ready for the annual spring yearling steelhead stocking on the Saugeen River. It's one hell of a lot of work in the cold confines of the hatchery making sure the Saugeen continues to be known as one of the best big steelhead rivers on the continent. It's called commitment and lot's of it by a group of volunteers in the Ontario Steelheaders and the Lake Huron Fishing Club.

Once you strip and fertilize wild steelhead eggs you have to feed and raise the little creatures for one full year at the LHFC's Kincardine hatchery. Then just before stocking, the chunky 8 inch smolt have to have their adipose fin removed for future identification.

That's fifty thousand plus fish that have to be manually clipped one at a time....AND THAT'S ONE HELL OF A CHORE and you only have to experience it to believe it.

Great work guys and a special thank you for creating this great sport fishery! Right fish, Right Genetics, Right release size, right stocking location, proper Imprinting...again thank you!

Darryl Choronzey

See Online: <http://bit.ly/1jg80dL>



Beatty Stocked

The combined efforts of LHFC, MNR and Ontario Steelheaders resulted in releasing 35,355 SA14CW Rainbow Trout with an average weight of 15.556 grams. These fish were released into the Beatty Saugeen, one of the key headwater streams flowing into to Saugeen River on Mar 27, 2015.





Sponsorships Matter

A letter to Hammond Power Solutions

Stephanie,

On behalf of the Ontario Steelheaders, we would like to thank Hammond Power Solutions for again donating so generously to a cause that is very dear to all members of the OSS.

The money Hammond has donated over the last few years has made our derbies a great success and joy for all who are involved.

It is companies like Hammond who's vision regarding the outdoors and resources of this province keep the volunteers in organizations like ours moving in the right direction.

Without companies like Hammond's grass-roots organizations like ours would fall short financially and be unable to continue to work towards the goal of ever improving the fisheries in the Saugeen area and this great province we all enjoy.

Best Regards,

Karl H. Redin
President

Meet The Committee

President

Karl Redin -- president@steelheaders.ca

Membership Director

Madeline Walker -- membership@steelheaders.ca

News and Media Director

Dave Allen -- news@steelheaders.ca

Secretary-Treasurer

Bob Pfaff -- treasurer@steelheaders.ca

Merchandise Director

Kirk Lund -- store@steelheaders.ca

Fundraising Director

Brian Zettler -- fundraising@steelheaders.ca

Derbies and Events Director

Scott Redin -- derby@steelheaders.ca

Other Supporting Roles

Fisheries Liaison

Darryl Choronzey -- liaison@steelheaders.ca

Denny's Dam Park Manager

Dave Munro -- park@steelheaders.ca

Website Admin / Technologist

Scott Kidwell -- webmaster@steelheaders.ca

DECAL PROGRAM



Dear Current Supporter/New Supporter:

As we enter yet another year of the Saugeen River Fishery Enhancement Program in partnership with the Lake Huron Fishing Club, we are reaching out to business and corporations for support. One of the biggest challenges in this very ambitious program has of course been financing the extensive costs involved. Your help, including revenues from draw and prize ticket sales and many other fundraising efforts will help us reach our goal of making the Saugeen River an exceptional Steelhead destination. We have the ambition and manpower, the know-how, and the cooperation of the MNR. Funding remains our only on-going challenge...but you can help!!

This year we are adding your supporter decal to our new website in addition to the newsletter which is printed twice a year. The storefront decal is also being revised that can be displayed showing your support.

The storefront supporter decals are renewable annually and we would be happy to renew your advertisement in the newsletter if applicable which is also posted on our website. Currently, there are two newsletters published yearly. Please join the many supporters already displaying the decal!!

It would be a sincere pleasure to have your company display the supporter decal in your storefront window. We believe this is the most effective way for you to contribute directly to the enhancement of this fishery and in turn enhancing your business. As always, we're looking for partners/supporters old and new.

Yours in Securing a Strong Fishery.

David Allen
News and Media Director
news@steelheaders.ca

Want to get your business, employer or local business involved with conservation, sportsman and nature?

Our decal program is in full effect again this year and the support earned by this program goes right back into our efforts of improving the Saugeen to be one of the top world-class steelhead fisheries in North America.

Show your customers you support local natural habitat conservation by applying a decal to your store window and company vehicles displaying support for the Ontario Steelheaders.

DETAILS

Price: \$200 Donation

The full color decal measures:
Length: 7.25 in
Height: 3.5 in

For more information, or contact
Karl Redin, email :
president@steelheaders.ca



Decal/Advertising Form

New Supporter _____ Renewal Supporter _____ (Select one)

Company _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Website _____

I, (name) _____ Have enclosed a cheque or money order Payable to : Ontario Steelheaders in the amount of \$200.00 in support of the Saugeen River Fishery Enhancement Program.

_____ I would like to display the supporter decal(s). Please send one to the address below.

_____ I would also like more details about advertising in our newsletter and/or website.

Payment

Please send cheque / money order for \$200.00 to:

The Ontario Steelheaders
Box 604
Brantford, Ontario N3T 5P9

Please allow 3 weeks for your decal to arrive.

NOW ACCEPTING



More details on our website: <http://steelheaders.ca/advertise>

* PLEASE NOTE: YOU CAN USE CREDIT CARD WHEN PAYING ONLINE PAYPAL



New Membership Form

New Membership _____ Renewal Membership _____ (Select one)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please Circle the Type of Membership Desired Below:

Regular 1 Year = \$25.00 Regular 3 Year = \$60.00 Family 1 Year = \$30.00

Junior 1 Year (16 years or under) = 10.00 Senior 1 Year (age 65 and over) = \$20.00

List all Names for Family Membership

NOTE: For family membership, all correspondence will be addressed to the primary membership holder.

_____ I wish to opt out of receiving newsletters and other communications by mail (paper copy).

_____ I prefer to receive communications by E-mail only

Payment

I have enclosed a cheque/money order for \$_____ with this membership application, payable to:

The Ontario Steelheaders
Box 604
Brantford, Ontario N3T 5P9

NOW ACCEPTING

PayPal[™]

You can also signup and pay online using our website: <http://steelheaders.ca/membership>

* PLEASE NOTE: YOU CAN USE CREDIT CARD WHEN PAYING ONLINE PAYPAL