



Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2013

Prepared by Dave Allen



Working Together

Hello Al,

Your Fall-Winter 2012 Journal was sent to me because of its enforcement content, but of course I couldn't stop there - a very interesting and informative read.

My first comment is to thank you for your support of MNR's field Conservation Officers. It's the public's participation through our TIPS-MNR violation reporting line that keeps our officers effective. Given *Ontario Steelheaders* obvious support for our enforcement work I would like to connect your group with another Ontario volunteer organization that provides tremendous support to us by focusing attention on specific illegal activity and then sharing the resulting information with us – information that leads to many successful convictions. The network of Crime Stoppers programs in Ontario has been an active supporter of MNR enforcement since 1991.

You will no doubt have noticed their “Unlawful sale of trout and salmon roe” ad in the 2012 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary. That ad, which was collaboration between Crime Stoppers and Trout Unlimited Canada, placed a spotlight on an important issue of concern to all law abiding anglers – the illegal sale of our fishery resource.

As the MNR Enforcement Branch representative to the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers I would be happy to put you in contact with a member of the OACS executive to discuss running the ad in you next Journal edition – the timing couldn't be better!

Regards,

Mark Robbins
Provincial Enforcement Specialist
Enforcement Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources

Report a Violation

Some Areas Natural Resources Violations May Occur:

- fishing
- hunting
- forestry
- crown lands
- forest fire
- parks
- agriculture
- aggregates
- petroleum
- water
- species at risk

If Ontarians can play a part in protecting our natural resources from waste, abuse and depletion. If you are witness to a resource violation within Ontario, please call the Ministry of Natural Resources TIPS line at:

1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)

In order to investigate an occurrence, it will assist an officer to know the following information:

- ***Nature of violation (see list in right column)***
- ***Vehicle information***
- ***Location of violation (address, county, township, municipality, lot, concession)***
- ***Particulars of violation, other relevant information***

The TIPS-MNR reporting line is not an emergency response telephone number. If you are calling to report public safety matters please call 911 or the police.

The TIPS line is designed to provide everyone in Ontario with a toll-free telephone line that they can call, any time of the year, day or night, to report natural resources violations directly to the Ministry of Natural Resources. This allows the public to report suspected natural resources violations that the Ministry may not otherwise be aware of. TIPS-MNR is not an anonymous program. Calls may be recorded and you will be asked to provide your name and contact information so that an officer may get in touch with you during the investigation and to assist them in any related prosecution.



All reports to the TIPS line are reviewed by a Conservation Officer and those requiring action are assigned for follow-up in the most appropriate manner. Depending upon their other duties and priorities there may not be an immediate or on-scene attendance by a Conservation Officer.

The intelligence and field operations sections of the Ministry's Enforcement Branch use all of the information collected to help focus Conservation Officer efforts on areas where there are high numbers of reported violations.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act is the main provincial law regulating fishing, hunting and trapping. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act is enforced by Conservation Officers and Deputy Conservation Officers.

The penalties for offences under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act can include:

- General offences: \$25,000, 1 year imprisonment, or both.
- Commercialization - related offences: \$100,000, 2 years imprisonment, or both.

Please Note: **Ontario Police Officers** are also designated as **Conservation Officers** under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.



Please don't take matters in your own hands. Avoid confrontation. **Use your cell phone to report resource violations.**

2013 Membership Application Form

New Membership _____ Renewal Membership _____ (Check one)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I wish to opt out of receiving newsletters and other communications by mail (paper copy). I prefer to receive communications by E-mail only

Please Circle the Type of Membership Required 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

New

Renew

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

NOTE: For Family Membership, all correspondence will be addressed to the person first named above.

I am interested in the following:

Stream Rehabilitation _____ Egg Collection/Adult Transfer _____ Release _____ Hatchery Work _____

Committee / Director Work _____ News and Media Work _____

Other _____

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

The Ontario Steelheaders
Box 604, Brantford, On.
N3T 5P9

Please allow 3 weeks from time of receipt of this application, for mailing of Membership Cards, crests and decals.

Steelheaders / Lake Huron Club Beat Mother Nature and the Steelhead

Darryl Choronzey

As you've probably heard we've been experiencing record cold weather, record wet weather and record runs of steelhead on the Saugeen River this spring. The old boys on the river have been facing the elements at their own pace and getting the job done

As I said the rains and cold have been one for the record book. Here's the Maple Hill dam and what it looked like for the last couple of weeks. Downstream at Denny's the sight is even more amazing. Floods, floods and more floods, but the fish keep coming on.



But even with the cold the steelhead have been coming on strong for weeks. The fish staged below the dam and off the rivermouth by the thousands, but the urge to get to the spawning beds overcame even the coldest and highest of water and the run kicked into gear.

This is the new fishway the Steelheaders built at Maple Hill under flood conditions. This fishway, another across the river and the Walkerton fishway have been passing first winter steelhead for the last month and now are jammed with spring fish.



At Denny's we close the passage only twice a day for less than an hour at a time to trap. We average between 400 and 500 fish captured at each lift. For the other 22 hours the big adults are running non-stop. Trust me it's not an easy task climbing into the hole twice a day to struggle with up to a thousand fish. Every one of those fish

is either put in the tanker or sampled and released upstream



These fish average out at between 6-10 pounds , but we have plenty of 10-15 pounders. The biggest to date this year is nudging 18 pounds



We generally utilize 3 or 4 transport tankers for the one hour ride up to the Beatty, but are using two while the remaining tankers are getting their spring overhaul. One tanker carries 50 adults and the second contains 40 big ones. Due to wet conditions we have to hand haul the adults down to the river which is a task in itself



We make two trips a day for a total of 180 adults a day. Trust me this is a lot of work for us geriatric wonders. Jimmy on the tanker had a brain aneurism about a year ago and Bill carrying the fish thought he was going to enjoy his retirement and just drink beer and fish



The main Saugeen may be muddy as hell, but the Beatty Saugeen trib is clear and drinkable. The Beatty is approximately 70 miles by water from the rivermouth and Lake Huron. We stock the fish at just upstream of the junction of the Beatty Saugeen and South Saugeen. From where we stock them, the fish have another 40 miles of prime, cold, clear spawning water



Kirk Lund one of our most dependable long time members has been part of these tanker expeditions for years. When I need someone and the going is tuff I know I can always count on him



Now have a close look at the rocks in this stretch of river. This is a major flood period across Ontario, streams are muddy everywhere, but never in the Beatty. Art Paterson is another longtimer that can always be depended on.



This really is what it is all about for this part of our spring program. We move a thousand fish like this every spring up into lower Beatty and let them do their thing in the best spawning water found anywhere in the province. In the first 2 1/2 days we moved 450 fish. The winds and rain kicked are butts for a few days, but I know I can always count on the geriatric groupies. As a matter of fact they called today and said they are back on the job and will be finished in a day or two. We stock the best wild genetics, in the best water, for the best spawning and imprinting. We trailer thousands of miles a year in both spring and fall but it's paying off big time.



These same two clubs also collect 100,000 wild eggs for our own hatchery program, 100,000 eggs for the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmens hatchery and an additional 75,000 eggs that we send to the Chatsworth hatchery for a joint program being carried out between the MNR. It's the first time in decades that a new strain (Chambers Creek) has gone into a provincial hatchery



Then next week we finish off our spring workload by stocking out 65,000 of the finest 8 inch fingerling steelhead smolt into the Saugeen way upstream 50 miles again for perfect imprinting at Walkerton



What can I say, but.....Old Boys Rule!!



And Rule!!



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And have created the best damn steelhead fishery I've ever seen in my life for the younger crowd. And I mean from Alaska to California. Think real hard about the number of anglers that actually fish below Denny's Dam alone each spring, fall and winter. When conditions are right catching fish is not a problem. In fact, 10 and even more fish a day are not an oddity when the bite is on. Think about the awesome numbers of fish bursting through that Denny's fishway ever spring and autumn 24 hours a day. Like I've said I've never seen anything like it anywhere else on the continent. A great accomplishment by a few old boys and a few youngsters as well that belong to the Ontario Steelheaders and the Lake Huron Fishing Club.



Thanks Walter Oster and the Toronto Sportsman Show From the Ontario Steelheaders

Darryl Choronzey

Just a quick line to let you guys know that Walter Oster and the Toronto Sportsman Show are good for their word.

A few weeks ago Walter happened to see the post on the Ontario Steelheaders / Lake Huron Fishing Club's success on the Saugeen this spring. At the time Walter posted to promise \$5,000 to help our efforts along. I believe I was hoping to bump up the donation a little higher...kidding of course 😊😊.

This morning I got a call from Walter to let me know that the directors (at Walters urging I imagine) had put a cheque in the mail for \$10,000 to help out our cause.

Thanks Walter and thanks go out to your directors from myself and the rest of the Ontario Steelheaders. We've got another project just getting underway and the funding is more than appreciated.

Guys, please support both the Toronto Sportsman's Show and the Great Ontario Salmon Derby that Walter oversees. He backed up his promise with a cheque and it's double what he originally promised.

I should note that Walter has come to our support in the past as well.



Thoughts from the Shoreline

Fishing from the shoreline is one of my favorite pastimes. I can be with friends or I can be by myself. Both situations can be equally enjoyable.

Fishing gives you time for reflection and otherwise lets your mind wander. How far it goes is up to you. It can be amazing what crosses one's mind during fishing excursions so I am going to share some of my cerebral ramblings with you:

1. A lure is a lure is a lure. Is it not? That is the question. Is it a lure or allure that causes a fish to attack? Scent, colour, size and movement all garner a fish's attention. My heavy footsteps and tripping over rocks while wading also gets their attention...
2. If parched, do not drink from the river water. It contains ugly little things that may cause you copious amounts of anal leakage. However in order to remain hydrated, some people say that pure water flavoured with some grains of the field does the trick. All in moderation say the experts.
3. With so many choices of colours and styles of lures, how does an angler choose an effective lure for that particular time and place? Did I bring enough tackle? (You can never have enough tackle in my mind.) Maybe I should follow my wife's advice and just "Pick out the pretty ones".
4. The easiest way to choose a lure is to watch what other successful fishing nuts, er...experts, are using and copy them. Yes, it does work – sometimes. This brings to mind the old slogan – "Born to fish. Not to catch."
5. River water in the Spring can be cold and fast flowing. It is a no brainer to be careful while wading. This is said not from experience but from close encounters of the wet kind.
6. It is also wise to check your waders for leaks before going fishing. Wet feet do not promote a good fishing experience. Either do the comments and/ or laughter caused by a wet crotch or seat of one's pants. Friends and strangers can be counted on to add to an embarrassing situation. You know I'm right.
7. Talking to the fish that are still swimming in the river is completely normal. I think. It may raise the eye brows of newbies but those who have been fishing for a period of time just smile and nod knowingly.
8. The heron down the river from me is catching more fish than I am. What's his secret ?
9. I sometimes think of the cost of fishing. One year while I was on the shoreline, I figured out that it cost me \$78.00 a fish (approximately) that year. It is a good thing that I did not catch more fish or I'd be broke. It would be cheaper to buy them at the grocery store but where's the fun in that?
10. What type of story should I make up today in case I do not catch anything? I may leave this to think about later but the ones about stick fish or the strength of the river bed monsters are always a source of inspiration.
11. Where are all those canoes coming from? Don't they know I'm fishing here???
12. Hey! Is that guy using pop (?) cans to measure the length of the fish he just caught???
13. Am I having a good time? Yes, I think I am. Yes... I know I am. The fish are being kind to me today. At least no one is telling me it's time to go. Darn, why did I think about having to "go"?



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well folks it's that time of year again were the OS is busy with a number of things. First we captured our adult's at Denny's Dam and moved them up stream to the prime spawning grounds of the Beatty headwaters of the Saugeen.

Next came egg taking for next year's little guys and along with that will be the release of this year's little guys who have by this time grown to some 6-10 inches and ready to take on the new world after spending almost a year being cared for by the guys at the LHFC and trust me they did as always, an excellent job.

There will be a release of about 60,000 from LHFC/OS and this year as an added bonus the MNR released approximately 35,000 more at the Beatty Saugeen these guys although slightly smaller than the LHFC guys due to colder water temp at the Chatsworth hatchery will no doubt only make the fishery that much stronger in the future.

Along with the MNR's release at the Beatty there will some much needed follow up on the little guys in the Beatty later this year in the form of some Biomass work which will tell lots about how they are doing and the stream's condition as well.

We'll keep you posted on that as the MNR's Jody Schiefly made need some help with this.

Mother Nature was up to her old tricks and gave us a normal spring and so it took a little longer than usual to get the transfer done but the guys managed to as always get it done and transferred 962 adults to the prime spawning water of the Beatty Saugeen. A huge thank you goes out as always the volunteers that give their time and effort to get this done year after year and without this dedicated group the Saugeen would not be where it is today.

The guys at the Dam also managed to take all the eggs needed by LHFC, OS and a couple of other groups and the MNR, all of these are going to the next generation of fish for next year.

Also this year at the request of Dave Gonder of the MNR and the Michigan DNR fish were wanted to check for implanted tags. If the fish was discovered to have a tag it was to be taken for study by the Michigan DNR as this would have been a Michigan fish which strayed over to our waters **no fish were discovered to have tags.**

The transfer of our little guys from the LHFC hatchery took place the weekend of April 26/13 and even though it was opening weekend of trout season the dedicated group got it done and all went smoothly. The little guys are now swimming around in their new home the Saugeen for a short time till they smolt out and migrate to Lake Huron were they'll spend the next three years growing before they come back to their home the Saugeen. This year for the first time in many years the OS will take part in a Sportsmen Show. We will be at the Sportsmen in Walkerton Ontario the weekend of May31-Jun2 so if you haven't got any plans make a trip to the show and stop by for a visit.

Also a first in the history of the OS we have a finalized constitution so a big thank you to the current BOD of the OS for getting this done.

Also very shortly the OS will have the revised Website up and running and there will be lots of new features for all you tech-types so stand by for this in the next couple of months.

The BOD is also looking into getting the Club incorporated for the future so we'll keep you posted on how this is going.

So as you can see it's been a busy time and looks to stay that way for quite some time to come, also keep in mind that there will be some upcoming elections in the near future so think about it as Member of the OS if it's time to step up to the plate and take on a job to help lead the Club into the future.

Have a great summer, be safe and enjoy the great outdoors.

Karl Redin
President
Ontario Steelheaders

Ministry of
Natural Resources

Provincial Services Division
Fish and Wildlife Services Branch
P.O. Box 7000, 300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5

Ministère des
Richesses naturelles

Division des services provinciaux
Direction des services de gestion de la pêche et de la faune
300, rue Water, C.P. 7000
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 8M5

April 29, 2013

president@ontariosteelheaders.ca

Karl Redin
President
The Ontario Steelheaders
P.O. BOX 604
BRANTFORD, ON N3T 5P9

Dear Mr. Redin:

The Ministry of Natural Resources has reached a new five year agreement on commercial fishing with the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and Saugeen First Nation (Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON)).

The Ontario government is working hard to build stronger relationships with Aboriginal people. The new commercial fishing agreement was structured around mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual participation, mutual accountability, and a recognition that there are many parties who hold interests in the waters around the Bruce Peninsula and their interests must be considered in order to promote coexistence and build a more positive and beneficial future for all.

Beginning on April 26, 2013, the new agreement will enable the safe co-existence of commercial and recreational fishing throughout most of Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay. These waters are important areas to the two First Nations. We recognize that these waters and their fisheries are also important to the Ontario anglers and other local stakeholders. The agreement establishes a number of measures to allow commercial and recreational activities to safely coexist and includes monitoring requirements that allow the parties to evaluate those measures.

As part of this commitment, MNR and SON have worked together to develop the attached brochure that focus on safe boating, angling and commercial fishing in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay. MNR and SON have also developed signs that are being posted at the main boat launches in the area to raise boater awareness of an active commercial fishery in the bays. I am attaching a PDF version of the brochure that I hope you will make available to your members. I have also attached a copy of a backgrounder on the new agreement.

MNR will be making copies of the brochure available both online, and in print at variety of locations including the local Service Ontario and issuers of recreational fishing licences. I would be pleased to provide you with printed copies for distribution to your members.

MNR and the SON will closely monitor commercial fishing and recreational use in the bays and will meet in October 2013 to evaluate the measures in place to ensure that both fisheries continue to safely co-exist. We will also continue to seek input on the management of the fishery through the fisheries management zone councils and meetings with our stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Morencie
Director
Fish & Wildlife Services Branch

Attachments: Boater Safety Brochure
Backgrounder – Fisheries Agreement for Saugeen Ojibway Nation

Fisheries Agreement with Saugeen Ojibway Nation

March 11, 2013

The Ontario government and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) have reached a new substantive commercial fishing agreement in some of the waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay around the Bruce Peninsula. This agreement will be in effect from Feb. 25, 2013, to Feb. 25, 2018.

Former Supreme Court justice Frank Iacobucci was retained by the government to facilitate discussions between the parties. On Aug. 23, 2011, SON and Ontario signed a framework agreement that established a process for the negotiation and subsequent signing of a new commercial fishing agreement.

The new agreement:

- Provides clarity and certainty about how SON's sustenance commercial fishing right will be exercised.
- Means all commercial fishing conducted by SON will take place in a sustainable manner, based on sound science and the collaborative setting of total allowable catch (TAC).
- Recognizes the importance of protecting and conserving the fishery.
- Identifies the specific waters where commercial fishing will occur, including a time frame for SON to resume commercial fishing in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay.
- Sets out processes for monitoring, assessment, information sharing, and determining sustainable harvest limits.
- Enhances economic development opportunities for SON.
- Establishes a cooperative approach to compliance.
- Commits both parties to effective public education and communications.

The new agreement does not:

- Address fishing for food, social or ceremonial purposes.
- Change recreational fishing regulations.
- Change where recreational fishing activity can occur.

Fishing in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay

These bays are important areas for both recreational users and the two First Nations. They provide sheltered waters for sailing and for small vessels to safely fish for both recreational and commercial purposes. Under the terms of this new agreement, commercial fishing will resume in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay on April 26, 2013 and continue year round over the term of the agreement.

MNR and SON will monitor commercial fishing and recreational use in the bays and will meet in October 2013 to make sure that both commercial and recreational anglers can continue to safely coexist, while maintaining a sustainable fishery.

A number of measures will be in place to allow commercial and recreational activities to safely coexist in these waters:

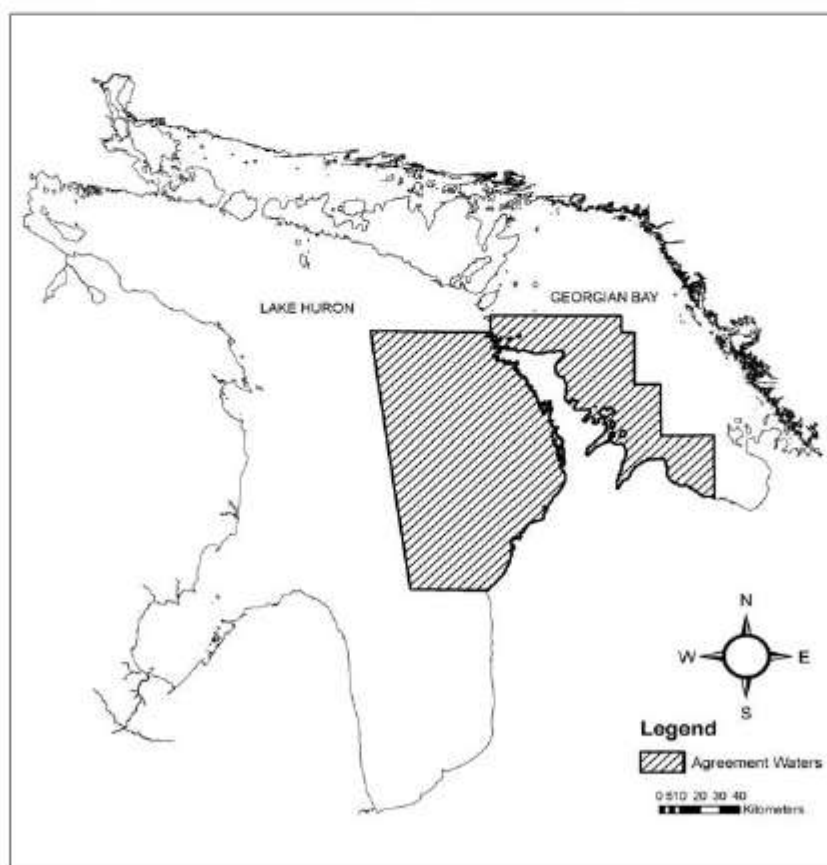
- Nets will be marked in an effective and standard manner that will be communicated to all recreational boaters.
- Nets will be no longer than 300 metres to maximize marker visibility and facilitate safe passage for recreational boaters.

In addition, the following new measure will be implemented in order to mitigate the unintended harvest of trout and salmon:

- Nets set in the bays will have a mesh size of 4.5 inches or greater.
- Nets in the Bays shall be a maximum height of 50 meshes.
- During March, April, October and November, commercial fishers will make best efforts not to set nets for commercial catch within a one-kilometre radius of the mouths of Bothwells Creek, Colpoys Creek, Waterton Creek, Keefers Creek and Gleason Brook in order to protect spawning salmon and rainbow trout.

Area of the Agreement

The agreement covers waters surrounding the Bruce Peninsula from Point Clark in the main basin of Lake Huron to the international border and around the Bruce Peninsula into Georgian Bay to Craigleith. This area is recognized by SON as its traditional waters.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Changes are coming soon – a New Website, Access to Facebook and of course Twitter.

And also, we will be able to use **PayPal**, yes that's correct, have the ability to able to renew your membership or even make a donation.

The **Decal Supporter Program** is going strong in 2013. New decals were developed in the fall and we've been canvassing all winter. A few last minute applications came in just before we went to print... way to go guys! We have met our goals for the program this year, and there's still room to do more in the fall. You will see the various participants' advertisements throughout this newsletter. Thanks to all our 2012 supporters!



A new banner was created to symbolize the partnership between the Ontario Steelheaders and LHFC. You'll likely see it at Ontario Steelheaders events. One of these banners is displayed on the wall at LHFC's Kincardine Trout hatchery.

200 + STRONG!

WOW – we are well over 230 members and from all accounts we continue to be growing strong. It is that time of year again when many of your membership's will be expiring, the expiry date is May to May – please feel free to check with me in person or through email to see when your membership is coming due.

I am pleased to initiate the commemoration of Honorary Membership Status for those members who have volunteered their time and efforts to the benefit of the Ontario Steelheaders. For the first time ever it is my privilege to recognize a select group of individuals who have demonstrated tireless commitment to the betterment of the organization.

Darryl Choronzey; Pete Gilles; Rod Jones; Grant McAlpine; Doug Swan and Rich Weiler

Please keep in mind that all membership dollars received are 100% directed to the Ontario Steelheaders and their goals and objectives. The money received from the actual membership fees is relatively small in comparison to the donations, grants and bursaries from businesses, government organizations, as well as, other community group funds. However, to be looked upon favourably by many of these organizations it is beneficial for our organization to show a wealth of members within its membership roster. The power is in the numbers, as it demonstrates to these various organizations that we have a committed (and large) group of people who continue to renew their memberships and support the efforts through a spirit of volunteerism to better the fisheries.

I want to say a special thank you to all the members who are out there promoting the benefits of membership to others in hopes of soliciting new members.

On a somber note, it is with great sadness to report the passing of one of our long standing members, Ms. Florence Gray (Flo). Flo passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in February of 2013. On behalf of the Ontario Steelheaders, I express our condolences to her family and friends.

Also with a heavy heart, I report the passing of another longtime friend of the Ontario Steelheaders ; Mr. Fraser Reid. Again on behalf of the Ontario Steelheaders we wish to express our condolences to Fraser's friends and family for their loss.

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. You should note that the most recent membership application form provided an option for those of you who wish to opt out of receiving mail through Canada Post and only receive email communications. I realize that for some of our members continue to depend on receiving our communications through Canada Post and this will continue. However for those of you who have selected to opt out and receive email communications only, I thank you, as this does reduce our overall operating costs. However, regardless of how you wish to receive your communications please ensure that I have received your most up to date contact information.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE – MAKE SURE THAT I HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS AND ALL CONTACT INFORMATION. I have received a lot of 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@ontariosteelheaders.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
Ontario Steelheaders
membership@ontariosteelheaders.ca

TREASURERS REPORT

Hello Steelheaders and welcome to summer. It certainly is nice to shed the cold blustery days of winter to enjoy the more temperate days to.

Below is a list of groups, individuals and organizations who have been kind and generous with donations of time, labour, materials and financial support to aid our joint ventures in helping one of our favorite species, Steelhead. I would like to thank you all, personally, for your contributions and look forward to your continued association with the Ontario Steelheaders.

Here is a list of friends of the Ontario Steelheaders

Joseph Lawson
Bernard Gowsell
Roberto Rossi
Hammond Power Solutions
Red Wing Tackle
Don Power
Pete Munro
Ernie Jantzen
Angling Outfitters
Darek Czarnota

Financial Report for the Ontario Steelheaders September 2012 through March 2013

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 9/01-30/12 | Opening balance | 28,202.41 |
| | Expenses | 705.95 |
| | Credits | 393.73 |
| 10/01-31/12 | Opening balance | 27,889.38 |
| | Expenses | 3,803.61 |
| | Credits | 5,028.27 |
| 11/01-30/12 | Opening balance | 29,113.79 |
| | Expenses | 4,180.11 |
| | Credits | 752.77 |
| 12/01-31/12 | Opening balance | 25,670.16 |
| | Expenses | 2,092.08 |
| | Credits | 195.21 |
| Year End 12/31/12 | | 23,789.83 |
| 01/01-31/13 | Opening balance | 23,789.83 |
| | Expenses | 300.18 |
| | Credits | 624.20 |
| 02/01-28/13 | Opening balance | 24,113.85 |
| | Expenses | 199.75 |
| | Credits | 25.18 |
| 03/01-31/13 | Opening balance | 23,939.28 |
| | Expenses | 2405.94 |

I would like to thank you all, personally, for your contributions and look forward to your continued association with the Ontario Steelheaders.

Here is a list of friends of the Ontario Steelheaders

Harold Curtis

Treasurer
Ontario Steelheaders



The Law (Fisheries Act of Canada)

Did you know?

Throwing overboard of certain substances prohibited

- **36. (1)** No one shall
 - (a) throw overboard ballast, coal ashes, stones or other prejudicial or deleterious substances in any river, harbour or roadstead, or in any water where fishing is carried on;
 - (b) leave or deposit or cause to be thrown, left or deposited, on the shore, beach or bank of any water or on the beach between high and low water mark, ***remains or offal of fish*** or of marine animals; or
 - (c) leave decayed or decaying fish in any net or other fishing apparatus.
- **Marginal note: Disposal of remains, etc.**

(2) Remains or offal described in subsection (1) may be buried ashore, above high water mark.

NOTICE TO ALL

Midwestern Ontario Sportsmen's Show

May31-Jun2

290 Durham Street West, Walkerton

Show Hours: **Friday** 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm **Saturday** 9:00 am - 6:00 pm **Sunday** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Admission:

Adults: \$8.00

Juniors (Ages 11-16): \$5.00

Children (10 years and under): Free

Family (up to 2 adults & 3 juniors): \$20.00

*Cash only at the ticket counters

INTERESTING READING

Beatty Saugeen Watershed - Negative Impact by 4 Gravel Pits + 3 Applications

To: Mr. Gary Christie, President,

My name is Jo Chisholm; I am part of a group of neighbours in the township of Southgate near Holstein who are objecting to the cluster of gravel pits that have sprung up in the last four years in approx. a 3 sq. km. radius along a glacial moraine adjacent to the Beatty-Saugeen River, a spring-fed headwater of the Saugeen River.

I read the article on your web site *Saugeen and Its Tributaries* which started out as an enjoyable fishing trip on the Saugeen River in 2007. The paragraph heading, "All is Not Well in Paradise" referencing human industry i.e., aggregate extraction etc., caught my attention. This article was written in 2007 and the author has a premonition of the future "that as gravel reserves closer to the GTA are exhausted better transportation corridors are developed to bring these gravels. . . [to] major markets of southern Ontario." This premonition has been unfolding for the past six years in our township with the unprecedented approval of gravel pits in close proximity to the Beatty Saugeen River. The author of the article indicates that more studies are required.

As the Beatty Saugeen is a spring-fed headwater of the Saugeen, given your rainbow trout stocking programs in the Saugeen River, we thought you might be interested in this development. We understand, that for several years, you have been involved with rainbow trout stocking efforts along the Saugeen, and years prior to that stocking rainbow trout programs further upstream along the Beatty-Saugeen (perhaps the latter was the MNR?). The Beatty-Saugeen up to the Orchard dam, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), has been a designated fish sanctuary for years. The section of river immediately downstream of Orchard is a remarkable trout habitat boasting rainbow trout, brown trout, and local brook trout. It is rare to experience three species of trout occupying the same stretch of river.

Recently, Reeves Construction, have announced they will be submitting a complete application for a permit to extract aggregate close to the Orchard dam. Specifically, there is a pond close to the pit site which feeds into the Beatty Saugeen Watershed. Given your ongoing stocking programs, we thought this might be of interest to you.

Further complicating the situation, the MNR who monitors gravel pits for compliance, is so understaffed they can barely keep their heads above water with day-to-day duties. Their case load is so high, one aggregate technician admitted to a case-load of 400 gravel pits—I do not believe there is enough time for staff to perform adequate studies. In fact, the entire aggregate industry "self-monitors" annually, with MNR technicians only reviewing industry generated compliance reports. With such case-loads and self-monitoring, it has been proven that non-compliance issues fall through the cracks. In other words, when a gravel company completes its annual check-list, it's akin to the "fox guarding the hen house." Valuable data that could verify the impact of a gravel pit on the surrounding environment, i.e., Beatty Saugeen River, is unavailable.

I am gathering information that might support our concern for fish habitat in the Beatty Saugeen River, as well as our concern for the cumulative effect of the 4 pits plus 3 applications which are in close proximity to flood plain, wetlands and the river all the way down to Orchardville. The pits could have a significant impact on the surrounding watershed, specifically the headwaters of the Saugeen River.

Further upstream the Beatty Saugeen River (east of the Orchard dam) another pit is being considered. Called, the Peyton Pit, the site plan indicates gravel will be extracted up to the flood plain of the river and wetland lands along both of its sides. There are plans to build a bridge across the river to transport gravel from one side to the other. This bridge becomes the haul route from Grey Road 9 to the pit on the north side of the river and traffic studies indicate approximately 30 trucks in and 30 trucks out totaling approximately 60 trucks per a day. Further, the construction of bridge may disrupt the flow of the river and disturb the riverbed which could destroy fish habitat, as well, the licensed pit boundary north of the river is within approximately 30m of river's bank. The site plan indicates that silt fences, setback 30m from the river, will be used to mitigate silt erosion into the river. Studies indicate the silt fences require constant maintenance and inspection and could be destroyed during a storm when they are most needed. As you know, silt and trout do not mix. Even fine accumulations of silt can disrupt spawning activity. This section of the Beatty Saugeen has resident Brook Trout and occasionally Brown Trout.

Section 35(d) of the Federal Fisheries Act:

Section 35 (d) "No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity that results in serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery, or to fish that support such a fishery".

Your newsletters indicate increasing water temperatures can endanger fish—small fluctuations in water temperature can be lethal to trout. When gravel is extracted to within 1.5 meters of the water table (often as much as 50 or more feet of percolating gravel can be extracted) it changes the topography of the land, the percolation rate of surface water, and the temperature of this percolated water. Gravel and sand is "nature's natural filter." Once removed through extraction, water tables can be affected by silt, and the temperature of run-off water may increase. The combined effects of this in close proximity to trout habitat, are a concern. In reference to your newsletter, you can see that it is not only poachers who are a threat to fish.

Various MNR Reports and SVCA Reports regarding watersheds and "Land Use" include agricultural and recreational industry but exclude aggregate industry? The reports provide recommendations to the agricultural and recreational industries to reduce their impact on watersheds...I would have thought that aggregate industry would also have an impact.

Our group is for better management of aggregate resources with more focus on the safety of the environment; greater setbacks from watersheds, fish habitat, forests and a better plan to address the cumulative and cluster effect.

We would appreciate any information or support the Ontario Steelheaders Association and your partner the Lake Huron Fishing Club could throw our way.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Best regards,

Jo Chisholm

NEWSNEWS

Ministry of Natural Resources

\$50,000 Fine For Importing Live Asian Carp

June 22, 2012

A Toronto fish importing company and the company president have been fined a total of \$50,000 for possessing live Asian Carp in Ontario. Xionyin Trading Inc., of Toronto pleaded guilty to possessing live invasive fish and was fined \$40,000. Xiong Wang of Markham, also pleaded guilty to possessing live invasive fish and was fined \$10,000. Additionally, 2,472 kilograms (5,450 pounds) of seized Bighead Carp valued at \$3,270 was forfeited to the Crown. Charges against the second company representative are still before the court. The court heard that on January 20, 2011, the Canada Border Services Agency at the Blue Water Bridge in Point Edward contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources to assist with the inspection of a truck hauling fish from the state of Arkansas into Ontario. Conservation officers inspected the truck and located a substantial amount of live Bighead Carp in the truck and subsequently seized all the fish.

It has been illegal to possess live invasive fish including, Bighead, Grass, Black and Silver Carp in Ontario since 2005 because of the significant threat they pose to the province's lake systems. As part of the ongoing efforts to protect Ontario's environment from the importation of invasive species, the Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to work with its law enforcement partners to monitor compliance with the legislation.

The Honourable Justice Deborah J. Austin heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, in Sarnia, on June 22, 2012.

To report a natural resource violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at

1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

HELP WANTED:

The **Ontario Steelheaders** are interested in putting your talents to work! If you believe you have a special talent to contribute to the management of this organization, please don't delay!! There are many ways you can contribute as our directors require assistants to complement their efforts. Please contact a director and we will do our best to put your skills to work to enhance and protect this fishery.

Ontario Steelheaders 2013 Annual Spring Steelhead Derby Report

Hi fellow Steelheaders. Another successful derby! It was the best weather for a derby in a long time, sunny and warm all day. We had about 8 fish weighted in.

I have to say it was a great derby for me, everybody was a huge help getting things organized for this event.

Well the winning fish came in at 4:58. With 3 casts, Scott Kidwell landed the big fish (8.1lbs) and ran all the way back to get it weighed. Nice fish Scott.

The placing's for the derby were

1st Scott Kidwell - 8.1

2nd Brandon McConkey - 7.2

3rd Dio McConkey - 6.8

and Dio also had the C-R with 31" long.

The junior division went to Cory Munro 4.6lbs. He is the holder for Spring & Fall derbies. Come on kids let's get him in the fall. Ha Ha!

With 81 seniors & 8 Jr., it was a great mix of people and everybody had fun. Even if it was your first time fishing bows. Everyone put in a great effort.

Well folks it was great working with all of you and i had a great time hosting the events.

I would like to say a special thanks to Hammonds (Guelph) Angling outfitters (Woodstock) - Ron Plaskett (Port Elgin), Ken Heath for all your support with prizes and donations. Also a big thank-you goes out to Dar, mike, Kirk, Brian, Pam, Pete, Cory, and Bill. Thanks guys. And one more thing ...**Take the turnip!**

Thanks again,

Dave.



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- Past President**
 Al Wilkins...fisheye@bmts.com

Event Announcement

The Adopt A Road Cleanup volunteers needed. The date is April 13 of 2013, the time is 9am to 12 noon.



The Port Elgin crew is to meet at McGregor Provincial Park Main Entrance and the Kincardine crew is going to meet at the trout hatchery.

Thank You...

Thank you to Alexandria Hahn for the assistance in formatting a coordinated Call/Contact list to help the Club connect Project Leaders with Member Volunteers.

Newsletter By Email

Receiving the newsletter by email is a great way for the club money to save postal fees. Please give it some thought. If you would like to view this month's newsletter to see if it will work, simply email us your request to: fish@bmts.com and we will add you to our list.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

April's message starts on a somber note. For those not already aware, Marion (Molly) Beange passed away in the early part of March. I don't believe I ever had the privilege of personally meeting Marion, however, several members have told me that she and her husband Jim have donated countless hours of service to the Lake Huron Fishing Club in various capacities and Jim continues to volunteer at the Port Elgin Chinook Hatchery. We extend our sincere condolences to Jim and the Beange family. For those who wish to contribute on Jim's behalf, donations are being accepted by the Port Elgin Church Building Fund.



We extend our sincere condolences to Jim and the Beange family.

As I write this, winter is refusing to let go its icy grip, even though the calendar tells me Spring arrived a few days ago. However, here is some news that should give us a warm feeling. First of all, as announced at the March General Meeting, Bruce Power has given us a donation, for the continuation of the School Hatchery Program, in the amount of \$12 000. Wally Motz attended the Executive Meeting and presented a cheque in the amount of \$230 dollars for the Hatchery Program on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. In addition, a cheque in the amount of \$500 dollars has been received from the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen Association to assist in the maintenance and operation of our hatcheries. Thank you to all these

organizations for partnering with us by way of these donations.

I am sure all of us, by now, are aware of the agreement between the MNR and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation that was announced earlier this month. All the information available is now on-line. The Executive of the Lake Huron Fishing Club is in the process of drafting a response to the MNR on behalf of the Lake Huron Fishing Club membership. Also, a letter is being drafted

with the intention of gathering information and the response of other clubs in the affected area. When that is complete, based on the responses we gather, a decision will be made as to what further action the Lake Huron Fishing Club will participate in. Until a decision is made, I would ask the membership to participate only in activities that promote Natural Resource Conservation. Through all of this process, I want each of you to know that your Executive is working on your behalf and with your interests in mind. To that end, if anyone has any comments, concerns or questions, please email them to me at garnets@ezlink.ca.

Respectfully,
Brian Garnet, LHFC President

CHANTRY CHINOOK CLASSIC SALMON DERBY COMMITTEE APRIL UPDATE

This update is very brief although there is a lot of work going on behind the scene. The next derby committee meeting is scheduled for April 16th at the Port Elgin Hatchery. At this meeting a number of items will be finalized.

We are continuing to seek sponsors for cash and prize board prizes. There are a number of new sponsors for 2013 (see updates on our website banner). Remember when purchasing your fishing and boating products and service needs, give our sponsors your business if possible. They are the folks that make the prizes what they are and without them, there would be no Derby.

The Chantry Chinook promotional brochure is in the final stages of development, delayed a few weeks to include as many of our new sponsors as possible. It is anticipated that final editing will take place, and going to print in early April, ready for distribution by the end of the month.

The derby tickets have been printed and are available to purchase. They are still only \$30 per individual or \$60 per family. For those who wish to purchase their tickets early, visit the website for details. Tickets are

available online by following the procedure outlined. You may also purchase by downloading, filling in the registration form, and mailing it to our mail box.

The tickets for the 30th anniversary boat draw have been printed and available to purchase. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Tickets will be mailed to all LHFC members in the near future to purchase or sell. All derby tickets purchased will automatically entered into the draw. You will recall that Tigwell Marine and Cycle in Alvanley sponsored this package. The package includes a 16 foot MirroCraft de fish boat with a four stroke 15hp Tohatsu electric start outboard motor. Included is a Load Rite bunk trailer and a boat cover. This fabulous package list price, including tax, is valued at over \$8000.

The Largest Rainbow Trout Prize presently consists of product prizes worth over \$2500. The special Rainbow prize will again be offered as result of more generous donations. Ron Gardiner, committed steelheader of RSG Custom Reels has, donated a \$2000 custom made float reel, which will be used as this prize. This is to be paired up with a custom hand crafted float rod by



RSG Chasing Tail custom float reel

for all those steelheaders out there.

Our Special Weight Prize for a salmon closest to a specified weight is again being sponsored by Kell Laboratories. Again, this year it is a Depth Raider Temperature Probe, however, a new and improved model.

For up to date information and derby details, visit our website at: www.chantrychinook.com

TROUT HATCHERY REPORT

I'm going to take month long vacations more often. The Trout Hatchery was in great shape when I returned at the first of March. This demonstrates what a great team of volunteers we have in this Club. All of our rainbows are finclipped with an adipose clip. I thank everyone who helped clip, but a special tip of my hat to Ray Waiser who made sure all the fish were completed in record time. Our rainbows are all just waiting for the rivers to warm before we release them. It is interesting to hear that the MNR released 31 000 rainbows into the Beatty Saugeen taken from eggs at the same time as us but raised at the Chatsworth hatchery. Their fish averaged 15 grams per fish. At the same age, our rainbows are averaging 40 grams/fish. We will be looking at releasing our rainbows around the end of April if weather patterns follow normal years. Any club member who wishes to get involved in our rainbow trout releases should contact myself. I have the permit to take more rainbow trout eggs when the run starts in earnest on the Saugeen. Our brown trout are doing very well also. We are catching up on a few maintenance jobs of the Trout Hatchery. If anyone wants some work please contact me.

Al Wilkins

fisheye@bmts.com
519-396-9764

BRUCE POWER PARTNERSHIP

At our May 9th General Meeting in Underwood, Bruce Power will be speaking about the New Partnership that has been created between the LHFC and Bruce Power. They will be speaking about how we will help each other by sharing information such as collecting fish data etc. moving forward.

The meeting will be at a special start time of 6:30 pm, as Bruce Power has graciously offered an all you can eat supper to every person that attends. The only request that Bruce Power has asked is that we give them an accurate idea of how many attendee's will be there to enjoy a fantastic meal. Couples are most welcome to attend to learn more about this exciting Partnership.

SALMON HATCHERY REPORT

The salmon are growing nicely. The fish were moved from the small tanks to the large rearing tanks in early March. A count was conducted during the move and we are at or above the number of fish we had last year. With the move to the larger tank we have moved up to the number 1.0 grade. We are not experiencing the abnormally warm weather we had last year so I don't expect the growth rate to match what we had over this period a year ago.

It is with sadness that I have to report that Marion (Molly) Beange, the wife of Jim Beange, passed away unexpectedly Saturday March 9th. I know that the thoughts and prayers of all Lake Huron Fishing Club members are with Jim and his family at this time.



GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS FORECAST

Weather conditions: The Great Lakes basin recorded very little precipitation this week and temperatures were generally below normal. However, above normal temperatures are expected to move into the area for the first time this spring. A rain and snow mix is expected to fall towards the end of the weekend. The new work week is expected to see temperatures rebound back to their seasonal average as the precipitation exits the area.

Water Level Conditions: The water level of Lake Superior is 4 inches below its level

of one year ago, while Lake Michigan-Huron is 15 inches lower. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario are 15, 17, and 15 inches, respectively, lower than their levels of a year ago. Over the next month, Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are forecasted to rise 3 and 4 inches, respectively. The water levels of Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are expected to increase 5, 5 and 7 inches, respectively, over the next thirty days. See the Great Lakes Water Levels web page for more water level information.

Forecasted outflows/channel conditions: Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Marys River is projected to be below average for the month of March. Lake Huron's outflow into the St. Clair River and the outflow from Lake St. Clair into the Detroit River are also expected to be below average throughout the month of March. Lake Erie's outflow through the Niagara River is predicted to be below average and the outflow of Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River is expected to be below average in March.



New Members

Jim LeGrand
Alex LeGrand
Jody Scheifley
Darcy Whytock
Dave Charette & Family
Randy Lieber

Tiverton, ON
Tiverton, ON
Owen Sound, ON
Teeswater, ON
Ripley, ON
Mildmay, ON

Protect our Fisheries

Report a violation

All Ontarians can play a part in protecting our natural resources from waste, abuse and depletion. If you are witness to a resource violation within Ontario, please call the Ministry of Natural Resources TIPS line at:

1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)



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