



P.O. BOX 604
BRANTFORD, ONTARIO
N3T 0A0

Keeping Steelhead Rainbow Trout in the Saugeen River For Future Generations

NEWSLETTER – 2024



The Ontario Steelheaders are pleased to announce the relaunch of its website (<https://www.ontariosteelheaders.com/>). It has a brand new look with good functionality. It is not 100% complete and we respectfully request that members use the site and provide feedback for improvement. For the best reading experience of the Newsletter, we very strongly recommend that you read it on our website. As you will see, there are many links contained within this document to information that is too voluminous to include in a printed version. Going forward, printed copies of Newsletters will only be provided to those who request them.

President's Report

Well where do I start, as it has been awhile. So let's get the updates out of the way. Effective January 1st Pete Pierce will be taking over as Park Manager from Dave Munro. Thank you Dave for your many years of hard work, it is greatly appreciated.

In the Kincardine hatchery, we have about 70,000 little Rainbows being raised for release next spring. They did have a problem with mould and therefore lost some of the eggs that were taken this spring. Saying that, a big thank you to all the people involved in the egg taking this spring (Grant McAlpine, Pete & Pam Gilles, John & Linda Hahn, Craig (Bunzy) Reiner, Owen Lee, Chris Doherty, Zeke Manning, Lance Crawford, Jeff Bryne, Todd Eby and if I've missed anyone you know who you are! Without these dedicated volunteers this would not happen.

Also, a big thank you to LHFC for their continued support and running the Kincardine and Port Elgin hatcheries. Also, I want to thank all the volunteers who came out to help clip fins and to help with the transportation and release of the smolts and yearlings. So when you're down there fishing, remember what these people have done to make the fishing as good as it is and maybe think of how you can lend a Helping Hand this coming spring. Calls for volunteers will be posted on our website and Facebook page when needed, so please check on a regular basis. The LHFC managed to get around 113,000 Chinook eggs from the Sydenham River in Owen Sound and those are now in the Port Elgin Hatchery. They will be hatching out depending on water temperature in the next 30-50 days.

We all know we need rain badly as October could turn out to one of the driest on record so due to this, the fishing isn't as good as it should be. Some of you may have caught fish which aren't clipped and you're assuming that they are wild fish but it has been brought to my attention that Michigan hasn't clipped any stocked steelhead for the past three years and we all know that their fish stray over to the Saugeen as they have for many years. In fact, this is how the Saugeen got its original Steelhead back in the day. Some of those unclipped fish will be Michigan fish along with our wild stock.

In closing, we have noticed that some people were slow in paying for their Park fees this year and that creates problems for the Park. As stated in Park rules, fees must be paid by June so please make sure you do so. You know you have the best Park around and please feel free to contact me or any of the directors of O. S. (you can also use the "Contact Us" page on the website). Stay safe and good luck fishing.

Karl H Redin

President

Treasurer's Report

Ontario Steelheaders are a NOT for profit organization. However, we must make certain expenditures throughout the year.

Funds are dispersed to the following:

Annual Rod Jones Scholarship to Sir Sanford Fleming College
Park Insurance
Park Lease to SVCA
Grounds Maintenance
Garbage Removal
Porta-Potty Rentals
News Letter - Printing and Postage
Contribution of funds to the Lake Huron Fishing club for fish food

How do we earn this money:

Through Park fees/trailer spots for the season.
Random camping and parking fees
The Ontario Steelheaders Spring and Fall Derbies
Sales of Merchandise, ie. hats, tee shirts, hoodies
Donations from:
 Other fishing clubs ie, SteelDreams
 From Individuals
 Membership Fees

And let's not forget the contributions by John Green, Director of Fundraising.

Please note that Park fees are to be submitted to the park manager no later than June 1st 2025.

Regards,
Bob Pfaff
Treasurer

Message From Park Manager

It's that time of year when things at the park wind down and I want to announce that there are a few changes for next year. I'm stepping down as Park Manager and Pete Pierce will be taking over. I would like to thank everyone who made this job a pleasure, and it's a big list. Thank you all. Please give all your support to Pete for the years to come as you have supported me over the years past, good luck Pete. Thanks again, I couldn't have done it without all of you.

Your friend
Dave Munro

Membership Report

By joining the Ontario Steelheaders, you are joining a group of fishermen, woman and children who enjoy being around the rivers, lakes, streams, etc. and its fishery. By joining, you're also showing that you care enough about the fishery that you're willing to join a group of individuals that want to get as much as they can from what the fishery has to offer while maintaining its natural beauty and resource.

If there's one thing a Steelheader knows how to do equally as well, is that we know how to enjoy the fishery by knowing the latest techniques and tactics that constantly puts fish in the boat or on the bank under all conditions. It's well known that if you want to improve at something you need to surround yourself with people who are just as eager to learn, as well as being involved with people who have the experience to show you how. Within the Ontario Steelheaders there are such people, people who are experts at salmon, steelhead, lake trout and even walleye and other game fish. Many Steelheaders are as comfortable on the river or stream as they are on the big lakes or small ponds, they don't just fish for salmon or trout, they fish for many species and enjoy being outdoors and on the water.

The Ontario Steelheaders has events such as derbies. Some of the other events include kid's fish outings, cook outs, volunteer day & seminars. To keep you informed of upcoming events and issues we have a [Facebook](#) presence and our website has a brand new look with good functionality.

We stay on top of what's going on with potential laws concerning the fishery as well as what's being discussed inside the Ministry of Natural Resources. In fact, the Steelheaders have representatives and input on a number of Advisory Committees where we express the concerns and viewpoints of our Membership. [Joining the Ontario Steelheaders](#) is simple and compared with many other organizations, and still inexpensive for what you get. Please feel free to contact someone from the Ontario Steelheaders and ask questions.

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 emails 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 received any communications then you may want to use the "[Contact Us](#)" page on the website to send us your correct email and phone number.

I continue to ask for all your input regarding any suggestions that you may have, as this is YOUR organization and your input is valued. 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 use the "[Contact Us](#)" page on the website with any concerns or suggestions and we will be happy to assist.

Madeline Walker
Membership Director, Ontario Steelheaders

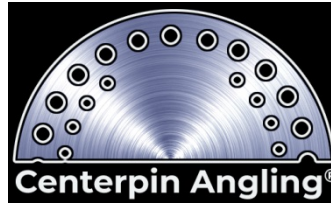
2024 Derbies Report

This year's derbies were a great success. Derbies are an important part of our fundraising strategy with all funds used to assist us in our efforts to improve the steelhead fishing on the Saugeen River. Glad to see so many people out having fun and enjoying the day.

The next Spring Derby will be held on May 3rd, 2025 and the Fall Derby on Oct 18, 2025. This event is open to everybody and we're hoping to see a lot of new faces. As always, following the derby there will be a BBQ, prizes presentation and raffles at the pavilion. If anyone would like to help out or donate any prizes for our 2025 derbies please contact me at doherty27@gmail.com, or you can use the "Contact Us" page on the website (ontariosteelheaders.com)

Tightlines all,
Chris

A BIG thank you to this year's sponsors and their generous donations:



JUNCTION 4&19
"THE ANGLERS CHOICE"



Fund Raising Report

Hi all,

Just want to let everyone know that we had another great year of Fundraising for the Ontario Steelheaders.

Through our Reel raffles and 50/50 draws, we were able to meet our commitment to the Sir Sanford Fleming College and the Rodney Jones Memorial Scholarship fund.

Two deserving students will split the Bursary and use the funds for books or tuition.

Also, there were enough funds left over that will be used to purchase wood to make some new picnic tables for the park.

A big Thank You to Jimmy Johnny for his Reel donation and to Tyler Knechtel from Junction 4&19 for his generous donation.

To all of you that have purchased tickets for various events, the Ontario Steelheaders thanks you for your support.

Lastly, a big shout out to Darlene Munro for all her help it is much appreciated.

John Green

Merchandise Report

Hello brothers, sisters and friends!

As another steelhead season nears its end, I would like to thank all of you who supported the club and the fishery by purchasing O.S. merchandise. I will continue with my efforts to keep bringing new and sometimes unique swagg to promote the club.

If you have any suggestions for something new please let me know. I'm always interested in your input.

Thanks again for your continued support. It all makes a difference!!

Tight lines... See you in the spring,

Carlo Baldassarra

News & Media Report

I am proud to let everybody know that the website (<https://www.ontariosteelheaders.com>) has been completely overhauled. It will never be finished as it's an ongoing project and we respectfully request that members to use the site and provide feedback for improvement.

We will be communicating with our membership with our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) so it will be up to you to check in on a regular basis as new content will be posted as it becomes available. I also want to take this opportunity to stress the importance of Madeline's message to the membership to **MAKE SURE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE** as you will miss out on email or text blasts that will be done from time to time. Please use the "[Contact Us](#)" page on the website to send us your correct email and phone number as soon as you can.

The website is yours and we are always looking for good content, including current developments in our fishery, instructional articles and videos, social events that might be taking place at or near the river and so on. Anything that is of interest to our membership will be considered. Submissions by our members for the website is encouraged and would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Pat Galluzzo

Lake Huron Fishing Club

Salmon eggs were collected a few weeks ago and are fertilized and starting to be picked by our club volunteers at Port Elgin salmon hatchery. Brown trout have been released and the rainbows are healthy! We are wintering 9,800 rainbows at the salmon hatchery as this is the yearly practice to make room for the next round of brown trout.

The Kincardine trout hatchery and Port Elgin hatchery cost the [Lake Huron Fishing Club](#) (LHFC) \$57,000 - \$60,000 a year to operate. The [Community Hatchery Program](#) (CHP) helps offset some of the costs but we rely heavily on donations, derbies, grants and people buying yearly LHFC memberships to cover the costs associated with the hatcheries. Please consider joining our organization and visit our website (www.lakehuronfishingclub.com) to become a 2025 member and help support the hatcheries.

Thank you

Kodey Buchanan
LHFC president

Protect Those Baby Blues

As you are aware the sun supports all life on our planet, but its life-giving rays also pose dangers. The sun's primary danger is in the form of Ultraviolet (UV) radiation. UV radiation is a component of solar radiation, but it can also be given off by artificial sources like welding machines, tanning beds and lasers.

Most are aware of the harm UV radiation can do to the skin, but many may not realize that exposure to UV radiation can harm the eyes or that other components of solar radiation can also affect vision. There are three types of UV radiation: UV-C is absorbed by the ozone layer and does not present any threat; UV-A and UV-B radiation can have adverse long- and short-term effects on the eyes and vision.

If your eyes are exposed to excessive amounts of UV radiation over a short period of time, you are likely to experience an effect called [photokeratitis](#). Like a "sunburn of the eye", photokeratitis may be painful and include symptoms such as red eyes, a foreign body sensation or gritty feeling in the eyes, extreme sensitivity to light and excessive tearing. Fortunately, this is usually temporary and rarely causes permanent damage to the eyes.

Long-term exposure to UV radiation, however, can be more serious. Scientific studies and research have shown that exposure to small amounts of UV radiation over a period of many years increases the chance of developing a cataract and may cause damage to the retina, a nerve-rich lining of the eye that is used for seeing. Additionally, chronic exposure to shorter wavelength visible light (i.e. blue and violet light) may also be harmful to the retina.

The longer the eyes are exposed to solar radiation, the greater the risk of developing later in life such conditions as cataracts or macular degeneration. Since it is not clear how much exposure to solar radiation will cause damage, the AOA recommends wearing quality sunglasses that offer UV protection and wearing a hat or cap with a wide brim whenever you spend time outdoors. Also, certain contact lenses can provide additional UV protection.

To provide adequate protection for your eyes, sunglasses should:

- block out 99 to 100 percent of both UV-A and UV-B radiation;
- screen out 75 to 90 percent of visible light;
- be perfectly matched in color and free of distortion and imperfection; and
- have lenses that are gray for proper color recognition.

The lenses in sunglasses should be made from polycarbonate or Trivex® material if you participate in potentially eye-hazardous work or sports. These lenses provide the most impact resistance. If you spend a lot of time outdoors in bright sunlight, wrap around frames can provide additional protection from the harmful solar radiation. Don't forget protection for children and teenagers. They typically spend more time in the sun than adults.

Be sure to see your doctor of optometry at least every two years [recommended schedule of examinations] for a comprehensive eye examination. It is a good way to monitor your eye health, maintain good vision and keep track of your solar radiation protection needs as well as new advances in eye protection.

Madeline Walker
Membership Director, Ontario Steelheaders

The Impact of Dams on the Saugeen River

The [Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority \(SVCA\)](#) indicates that there are at least 50 privately owned dams in the Saugeen watershed. Settlers built dams in the 1850s to create power to saw logs and to grind up grains for flour. A small number of dams have been retrofitted to supply hydro power for personal use or for the hydro grid. Given that many of these dams are quite old and may be in need of repair, their continued usefulness and safety are critical points of concern. A lot of dams on the Saugeen do not serve a purpose today and have adverse consequences on the integrity of the river ecosystem and their removal should become a priority when the costs of keeping them (both financial and environmental) outweigh the benefits, if any, of maintaining them.

Environmental Impact

Dams can significantly alter the natural flow of a river, affecting ecosystems and wildlife. Over time, dams can accumulate sediment, which may affect water quality and create further risks to the dam structure. Sediment build-up can also prevent the river from maintaining a natural flow pattern, altering aquatic habitats. In the case of the Saugeen River, which is important for fish species such as Steelhead and salmon, the presence of these dams unnecessarily heats the water, blocks fish migration routes, and disrupts breeding cycles.

Usefulness of Dams

Many dams built in the 19th and early 20th centuries were constructed for purposes such as milling, water power, or flood control. In the present day, those needs may no longer be relevant. As industries have changed or moved, the original utility of the dams has often diminished.

While some dams, such as the Maple Hill Dam on the Saugeen, still generate hydroelectric power, they may be inefficient by modern standards or might not generate enough energy to justify their operation and maintenance costs. Many of these dams are privately owned, which can make coordinated efforts to repair, remove, or assess them more complex. Different owners may have varying levels of interest and motivation in maintaining or investing in the dams. In Ontario, dam safety is managed by the [Ministry of Natural Resources \(MNR\)](#) and owners must adhere to regulations that aim to ensure the safety of dam structures. However, enforcement can be inconsistent, especially when dams are privately owned.

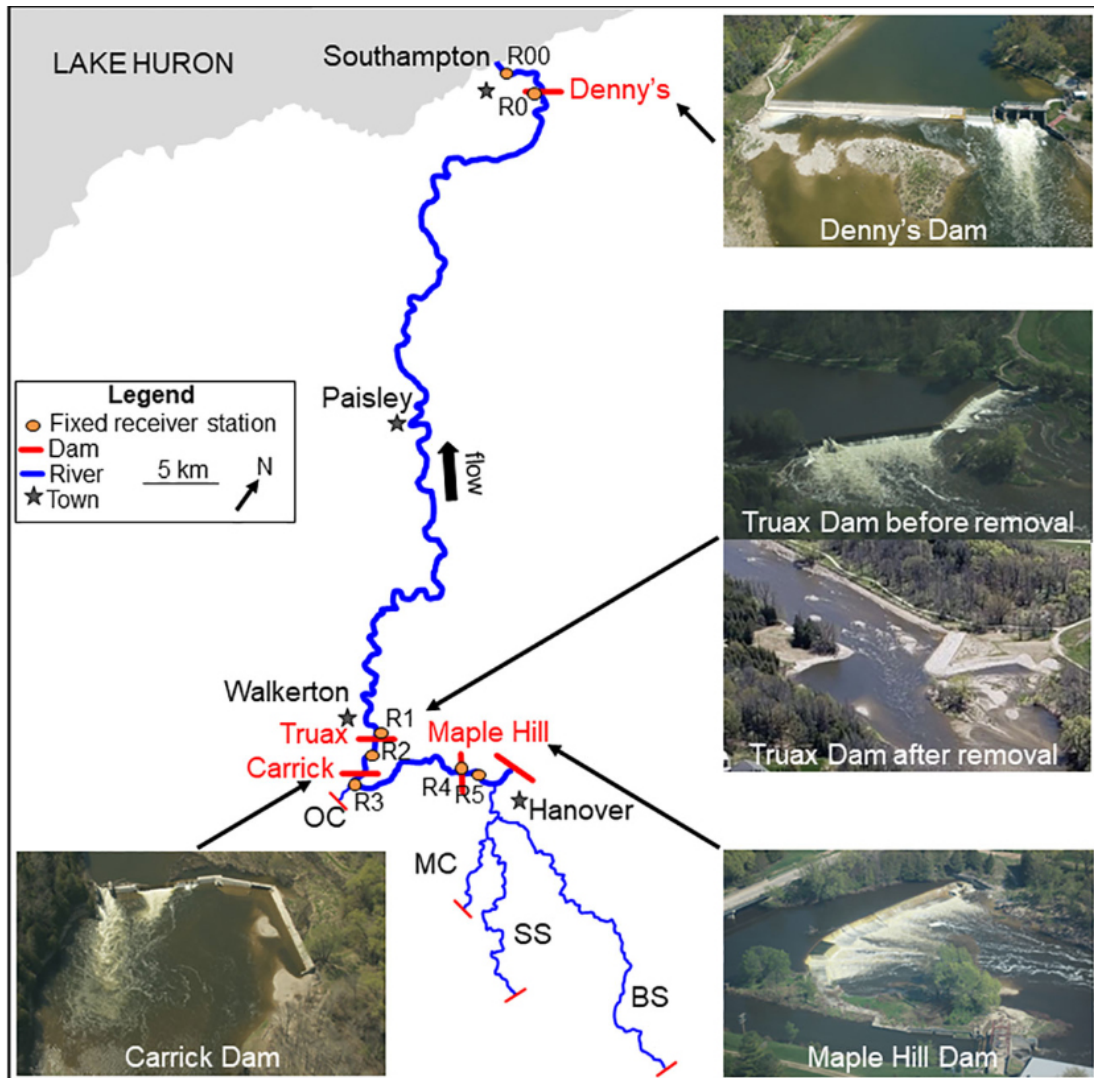
In the case of Denny's Dam, during the 1940s and 1950s, there was a devastating invasion of the sea lamprey into the Great Lakes and this brought about the rebuilding of Denny's Dam in 1970 to block the sea lamprey and halt its spawning process. A single sea lamprey can destroy 18 kilograms of fish in its parasitic phase and it's estimated that without the dam, 30,000 lampreys would out-migrate into the Saugeen River and Lake Huron (that works out to 540 metric tonnes of fish lost). [Denny's Dam was rehabilitated in 2017-2018](#) to extend its life so that it may continue to control the sea lamprey population.

Opportunities for Restoration or Removal

In some cases, removing outdated or unsafe dams may be the best option. Dam removal can restore natural river flow, improve fish passage, and promote the recovery of aquatic ecosystems. Projects aimed at restoring the health of the Saugeen River, such as improving fish migration, may involve removing or retrofitting dams. For example, fish ladders or bypass channels can be added to allow fish to bypass dams, though this approach may be costly, technically challenging and sometimes it simply does not work well.



Figure 1 – Aerial images of the Truax Dam footprint, Walkerton, ON before and after removal. The original wooden dam was built in 1852 and later replaced by the concrete structure shown above in 1919. While the dam had a fishway that allowed the passage of some migrating salmonids under specific flow conditions, it posed a significant barrier to fish passage for more than a century before it was removed in the summer of 2019, restoring river connectivity.



The removal of the Truax Dam on the Saugeen River, which took place in 2019, had a significant beneficial impact on the migration of steelhead trout in the river (refer Biotactic Inc. report [Tracking Rainbow Trout Movement in the Saugeen River Before and After Removal of the Truax Dam](#)). Prior to its

removal, the Truax Dam was a barrier to fish migration, particularly for steelhead trout and salmon, which rely on rivers and streams to spawn. The Biotactic report indicates that after the removal of the Truax dam

“A total of 46 fall-tagged fish (92%) were tracked in fall 2019 and 42 (84%) were tracked in fall 2020. Twenty-one fish in 2019 and 11 in 2020 remained downstream of Denny’s Dam throughout the monitoring period. A further 15 and 13 fish, respectively, did not arrive in Walkerton and instead travelled between 0.10–75.02 km upstream within the Saugeen River.

A total of 10 fish in fall 2019 and 18 fish in 2020 arrived at the Truax footprint in Walkerton. These fish required an average of 2068 hrs to travel the 77 km from Denny’s Dam. Once arrived, fish were delayed for an average of 74.5 hrs while attempting to pass the footprint. This delay was almost 4 times less than before the dam was removed. Fish continued to occupy deep pool habitat that remained downstream of the footprint.

Of the combined 28 fish, 23 (82%) ultimately passed the footprint, 4.5 times more than prior to the Truax Dam removal. Like fall 2018, no fish passed Carrick Dam in fall 2019. Fish were able to pass this dam in fall 2020 with 10 fish (63%) passing Carrick and 8 arriving at Maple Hill Dam. These fish were delayed for an average of 1035.5 hrs while attempting to pass with 4 fish (50%) ultimately successful.”

Clearly, the removal the Truax Dam opened up migration routes and enabled more fish to access upstream spawning areas in healthier condition. While the Truax Dam removal may have made migratory routes easier to navigate, the Maple Hill Dam is a much more significant barrier in terms of the steelhead's ability to reach prime spawning beds; 4 of 8 fish were successful passing the Maple Hill Dam but it took them 1035.5 hrs to pass. Below is a picture of the Maple Hill Dam:



Unfortunately, the Maple Hill Dam restricts access to the most productive and high-quality spawning grounds where water quality and habitat conditions are optimal for steelhead reproduction. If these key spawning habitats are blocked by the Maple Hill Dam, the benefits of Truax Dam removal may be limited. Biotactic, in one of its YouTube videos notes that the passage of steelhead has increased by 180% in the spring and 979% in the fall since the removal of the Truax Dam downstream. However, the title of the video speaks to the ineffectiveness of the fishway “[50 fish in 5 hours - fall passage at the Maple Hill Dam fishway](#)”.

In addition to the physical barrier of the dam itself, there may also be water quality and temperature issues in the river section below the dam, which would make it less suitable for steelhead spawning. This means that while some steelhead may be able to migrate past the Truax Dam site, they are still challenged to reach optimal spawning areas due to the Maple Hill Dam and must spawn in inferior waters. It is said that the waters of the Beatty Saugeen (upstream of the Maple Hill Dam) have 50-60 km of excellent cold water trout habitat. Imagine the Saugeen fishery if sufficient numbers of mature steelhead could reach there in good shape.

The Ontario Steelheaders Fall 2011 Newsletter contains an article that expresses great optimism by many regarding the newly constructed fishway at Maple Hill Dam (this newsletter, along with those for other years are [available for viewing online](#) and they hold a treasure of valuable information regarding the efforts that went in to building the incredible fishery we enjoy today – **THANK YOU ALL** that helped make this happen. After many years of operation it appears that the fishway has failed to facilitate upstream migration. There are accounts of people having sat watching the fishway where countless (more than 100) steelhead made it to the bottom step of the fishway easily with little effort but none made it over the top.

In order for a fishway to work it must have adequate water flow to allow fish passage. Almost all dams have notches that allow water to pass and fill the pool below thereby allowing fish to move from one pool to the next. Without notches the fishway might be only be passable during high water, but if water conditions are too high then fish may not have the strength to successfully pass. Unfortunately, the Maple Hill Dam has no notches thereby making it very difficult for fish to pass. While there was optimism that this new fishway would allow passage to the prime spawning grounds in the Beatty Saugeen, the evidence suggests that it is not working as intended.

This means that the full restoration of the steelhead population would require addressing the barrier posed by the Maple Hill Dam, how effective is the existing fishway and should it be removed, or upgraded to increase passage efficiency, which some put it as low as 20%

A fishery is unable to support itself under these conditions and requires intervention such as hatchery stocking, or transporting adult fish to the spawning beds (MNR discontinued this in 2016).



Future of the Saugeen River

While many of these dams may have been vital to the region's development in the past, their aging infrastructure, environmental impact, and diminishing relevance suggest that their necessity should be carefully evaluated in light of modern needs and environmental sustainability. Specifically, the Maple Hill Dam should be carefully evaluated for the structure's risks, costs, and benefits. What is its impact on the local environment? Does it still serve a useful purpose? Decisions about dam repairs or removals can have significant community implications, including impacts on local recreation, water quality, and property values. Of course, the decision-making process should involve experts, stakeholders, and the public to find a sustainable solution that balances ecological restoration with social and economic needs.

The potential benefits for steelhead populations and river health generally outweigh the challenges, and the removal or modernization of such a barrier could contribute to the long-term sustainability of the river's aquatic ecosystems. Could the removal of the Maple Hill Dam create an environment where hatchery stocking would no longer be required?

Biotactic Inc. has been monitoring the Saugeen for many years now and they have prepared a number of reports documenting fish migration and the benefits of the Truax Dam removal. The main report is long

and the reader is strongly encouraged to read the interactive online version of this newsletter for links to these reports as well as other useful general information.

Links:

Biotactic Inc: [Tracking Rainbow Trout Movement in the Saugeen River Before and After Removal of the Truax Dam \(Winter 2022 update\)](#)

Biotactic Inc: [Rainbow Trout Migration Patterns in the Saugeen River Watershed](#)

Biotactic Inc: [Adfluvial migration and passage of Steelhead before and after dam removal at a major Great Lakes tributary](#)

Biotactic Inc: [Archived live cameras of fish at Denny's Dam](#)

[Dams on the Saugeen River](#)

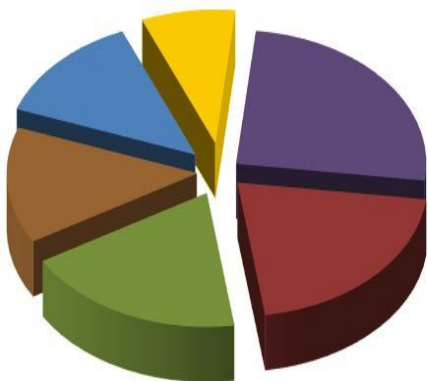
[How and why Europe is removing its dams.](#)

Fishing License History in Ontario

On Jan. 1, 1987 the then Liberal government under David Peterson implemented the requirement of fishing licences for Ontarians ages 18 to 64. “We expect to generate between \$9 and \$10 million a year from the sale of licences, which will be earmarked for a variety of fisheries improvement programs in both northern and southern Ontario,” Natural Resources minister Vincent Kerrio stated at the time.

Youth, seniors, disabled persons, and Indigenous residents fishing on their reserve or treaty waters were exempt. Seniors do, however, still require government-issued proof of age. At the time anglers could purchase either a \$10 annual license or a \$5 short-term licence that was valid for four consecutive days

According to the [Government of Ontario website](#), fees are disbursed as follows:



Breakdown by category:

- 25% - planning, policy and regulatory (purple)
- 19% - conservation officers and enforcement (green)
- 21% - species and ecosystem science (red)
- 14% - population health, rehabilitation and enhancement (brown)
- 13% - Outdoors cards and licensing (blue)
- 8% - safety, education and promotion (yellow)

[Get an Outdoors Card and fishing or hunting license](#)

Giving Back to the Community

To the Ontario Steelheaders,

On behalf of [Fleming College](#) and its students, I wanted to express my deepest appreciation for the generosity you have shown by supporting Fleming's Academic Awards Program. Your commitment to providing financial assistance for students on their academic journey is truly inspirational and deeply appreciated. Your support not only lightens the financial burden for deserving students but also fosters a sense of confidence and motivation to excel academically.

I am delighted to share with you the 2023 The Rod Jones Memorial Award for Environmental Conservation student recipient.

Ben Stark

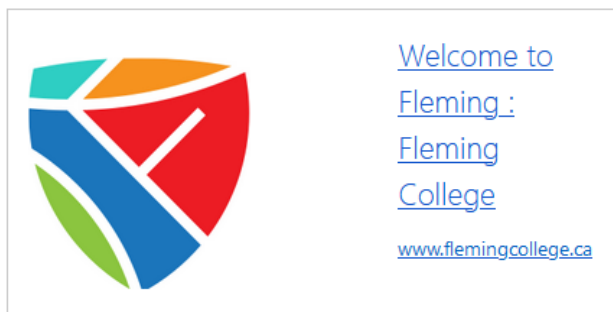
Hello,

I would like to express my deep gratitude for being selected to receive the [Rod Jones Memorial Award for Environmental Conservation](#). I am a mature student, who two years ago resigned from a job in data analytics to return to college for Ecosystems Management. I firmly believe that environmental conservation needs greater support, investment, and participation from people, which is why I decided to change the direction of my career. I have learned much from my time at Fleming, have been introduced to some excellent partner organizations where I now volunteer as a land steward, but as an older "new graduate" I have been struggling to find entry-level employment in Ontario's environmental sector. This award is greatly appreciated and will help me obtain further licensing that will help me successfully restart my career.

Thank you very much!

Thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to continuing the incredible journey together.

Warm regards
Rachael Cowle
Office Assistant
Advancement & Alumni Relations



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Giving Back to the Community



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Scott Richardson – Principal

Crystal Gascho – Vice Principal

Project Belonging is a program that supports not only the students within CHSS but their families as well. Project Belonging is a CHSS initiative begun in 2007/2008 based on the work of Michael Ungar of Dalhousie University to help students become more resilient in a supportive environment. We have found at CHSS that programs like Project Belonging are helping to change the culture of our school to one that is based on kindness and support. "We can make ourselves more resilient by making the world around us supportive" Michael Ungar.

Thank you so much for your donation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margery Holmes".

Margery Holmes
Student Success Teacher
CHSS
"Above all else be Kind"



2020 Ontario Recreational Fishing Survey

The [2020 Ontario Recreational Fishing Survey](#) provides insights into angler participation, catch rates, and the economic impact of recreational fishing in Ontario. Here are the key findings:

1. **Participation & Demographics:** In 2020, an estimated 1.5 million people participated in recreational fishing in Ontario. This included both residents and non-residents, with a noticeable increase in participation compared to previous years, likely due to COVID-19-related restrictions on other outdoor activities.
2. **Fishing Activity:** Anglers reported fishing approximately 15.5 million days in 2020. The most popular species targeted were bass, walleye, and pike. The survey also highlighted the importance of freshwater fishing, particularly in the Great Lakes and inland waters, where most fishing occurred.
3. **Catch and Harvest Rates:** The survey recorded that the majority of fish caught were released, with the catch-and-release practice being common among anglers. However, a significant portion of fish caught (especially walleye and bass) was harvested for consumption.
4. **Economic Impact:** Recreational fishing had a substantial economic contribution, generating over \$2 billion in direct spending within Ontario. This spending supported jobs in various sectors, including retail, transportation, and tourism.
5. **Fishing Trends and Preferences:** The survey indicated a shift towards shore and boat fishing, with a notable preference for lakes and rivers as fishing locations. COVID-19 had a lasting impact, with a rise in fishing as a safe outdoor activity.

Overall, the 2020 survey highlights the growing popularity and economic significance of recreational fishing in Ontario, with ongoing trends toward sustainability and conservation practices.

Steeldreams

This year the Ontario Steelheaders hosted the 1st annual Tandem shootout at the park. We are gearing up for the main event November 16th. Over the years the main event and the [Steeldreams](#) members have raised and donated over \$100,000 to the fishery and local communities. This is accomplished with money raised through raffles and fundraisers. We have a huge group of sponsors who donate year after year to make this possible and we thank you all.

For more information check out [Steeldreams Fishing Club and Tournaments](#) on face book or email us at steeldreams78@gmail.com.

Thanks

Kodey buchanan
President/owner
Steeldreams Fishing Club



Ontario Steelheaders Social Calendar

Denny's Dam park is home to a number of social events throughout the year. Dates to all events are posted on our website and Facebook page. Check in on a regular basis for more information, these events really are a lot of fun and everyone is welcome.

The Sparky's Golf Tournament is held the Saturday of the August long weekend, it's always a lot of fun
THANK YOU Teresa for all the hard work you do to make this happen

Hello everyone, we held our 6th annual golf/get together on August 3rd. This year we had 24 participants join us at South Port Golf Course. With excellent weather on our side we shared laughs and memories. We play a 4 ball scramble and the golf is just a reason to get together and have fun, clubs required but no experience necessary. After the game we joined the rest of our families and friends back at the park for an afternoon of fun, prizes, beverages and dinner. We had 53 in attendance. Please note that all empties collected over the year go towards buying food and drink for dinner. Join us next year August 2nd 2025, everyone is welcome. Postings will go up in May on the website, Facebook and at the park to sign up for golf/dinner or dinner only. Thank you to everyone for making this a successful event.

Sincerely,
Theresa Pfaff



Ontario Steelheaders Social Calendar

Kirk Lund Memorial BBQ (Multi club BBQ)

On Saturday August 24th the park hosted the inaugural multi club BBQ, now known as “The Kirk Lund Memorial BBQ”. The event was a success with good food and many laughs. Everybody is encouraged to attend this annual event as it provides a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Thank you Kodey for a great day, it was a lot of fun.

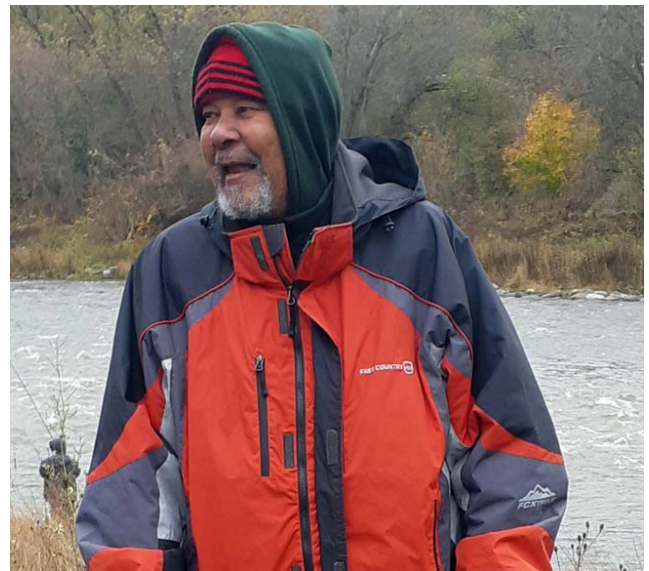


Members Lost

With sad news this past year the Ontario Steelheaders recognizes the passing of two long-standing members: Kirk Lund and Art Patterson. I'm sure that many of us have fond memories of spending time with these two gentlemen be it on the river or chatting by a warm fire. They were the epitome of the phrase “Old School” not to mention they were excellent fishermen, conservationists, and genuinely good guys. Their presence will be missed. Tight Lines and May they Rest in Peace.



Kirk Lund



Art Patterson



P.O. BOX 604
BRANTFORD, ONTARIO
N3T 0A0

Improving Access and Habitat for
Migratory Rainbow Trout.

Membership Application Form

New Membership _____ Renewal Membership _____ (Check one)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

The Ontario Steelheaders is moving to a digital only delivery of newsletters and other communications. By checking this box I wish to receive newsletters and other communications by mail (paper copy).

Please check the type of Membership Requested:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Price</u>	_____
Adult 1 Year Membership (Age 16-64)	\$25.00 per year	_____
Adult Extended (3 Year Membership)	\$60.00 every 3 years	_____
Senior Membership (1 Year - Age 65 and older)	\$20.00 per year	_____
Family Membership (1 Year)	\$30.00 per year	_____
Family Membership (2 Year)	\$60.00 every 2 years	_____

List all Names for Family Membership	New	Renewal
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

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.

Visit ontariosteelheaders.com/membership to join or renew online