



President's Message

As this is my first President's message, I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to represent the Ontario Chapter. It is an honour to have this opportunity, and share this privileged position with many incredibly talented professionals within the Province. I would also like to thank the current Executive Committee (ExComm) for all their dedication and hard work to make the last year the success that it was! I would especially like to thank Dean Fitzgerald for his work as President this past year promoting the Chapter along with his work to coordinate the 2012 AGM, and Andrea Hibbert for tirelessly serving as the Secretary since 2008.

I remember when I was a student attending my first Chapter AGM about 10 years ago. I was filled with apprehension, both for entering an arena of professionals of whom I knew very few, as well as being intimidated by the level of knowledge present within the membership.

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Grand River Walleye Tagging and Rehabilitation

By: Tom MacDougall & Kurt Oldenburg, Lake Erie Management Unit, Port Dover office, OMNR

The most genetically distinct walleye (*Sander vitreus*) in Lake Erie are those produced within the Grand River (GR). This stock shows strong fidelity to the river during spring spawning but returns to the lake during summer, contributing to a mixed-origin walleye fishery in the lake's eastern basin. Although, this eastern fishery is seasonally enhanced by a large contingent of migratory western basin-origin walleye, resident populations such as the GR stock, provide diversity and stability to the eastern basin population and ecosystem in general. The Grand River is one of the largest watersheds in southern Ontario, and the largest Ontario tributary to Lake Erie. The lower reaches of the river which are most important to walleye migrating from the lake are impaired by a variety of stresses including very poor water quality, a consequence of being downstream from considerable agricultural and urban land-use. Another particularly critical impediment for the GR walleye is an historic low-head dam at the town of Dunnville, the first true barrier to migration, located 7 kilometers upstream from the river mouth. Despite the presence

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Photo below: Electrofishing and volunteer capture boat at Dunnville Dam.
Photo courtesy of Felix Barbetti



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President's message (continued from page 1)

I was humbled by the openness, and enthusiasm of the Chapter members to make a shy, young student feel like they had something to contribute. I know the current ExComm maintains this atmosphere of welcoming, and I hope that it will be continued for all new chapter members and students.

Several initiatives I plan to continue are maintaining/increasing the number of educational and networking opportunities organized by the Chapter. These could take the form of evening talks/lectures, social nights (e.g. spring social concurrent with Class I Electrofishing Course), or workshops. I also would like for the Chapter to continue to support the Student Subunit and their social fundraisers to support travel bursaries, grants, and professional development. I would also like the Chapter to maintain a level of advocacy/accountability, supporting fisheries related concerns such as changes to the *Fisheries Act*, and the closing of the Experimental Lakes Area.

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Photo above: AFS-OC President Brian Morrison.
Photo courtesy of Brian Morrison

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) Amendment signed

On September 7, 2012 the amended GLWQA was signed by both Canada and the United States. This amendment now includes provisions that deal with invasive species, habitat loss and climate change.

For more information or to read the document please visit:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/grandslacs-greatlakes/default.asp?lang=En&n=45B79BF9-1>

OMNR Kids' Fish Art Contest

It is that time of year again for the OMNR's Kid's Fish Art contest. The deadline is November 30th, 2012 and more info is available at:

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/KidsFish/index.html>

The Ontario Chapter is proud to be associated with:



www.ontariofishes.ca

Upcoming Conferences

32nd International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)
2012 A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium
73rd Midwest F&W Conference
66th Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research

Date

November 7-9, 2012
November 14-16, 2012
December 9-12, 2012
January 3-5, 2013

Website

www.nalms.org/
www.latornell.ca/
www.midwestfw.org/
www.uwindsor.ca/glier/ccffr/

President's message (continued from page 2)

After this past year's successful AGM at Viamede Resort on Stony Lake, the ExComm will be asking the membership whether they wish to return to this location or move back to Geneva Park in Orillia (more info to come!). We will also be hosting elections for two positions within the ExComm, President Elect and Secretary. Look for an email in the near future with candidate biographies for each position and election procedures. The candidate biographies are also printed on Pages 4, 8 and 9 of this newsletter.

I am thrilled to represent the Chapter for the next year, and am excited to work with a dedicated ExComm. I am also looking forward to seeing many old friends at Chapter events, along with meeting many fisheries students and professionals new to the Ontario Chapter. I would also like to remind members and non-members to visit our website (<http://www.afs-oc.org>) or Facebook group (Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society) for regular updates on Chapter activities, conferences, or other interesting information about fisheries in the Province.

Brian Morrison
president@afs-oc.org

Grand River Walleye (continued from page 1)

of a fishway, the dam still impedes the vast majority of walleye from migrating to upstream spawning habitat. Without upstream access, spawning walleye face a degraded system with limited suitable spawning habitat.

MNR's commitment to managing and improving the GR walleye stock is linked to the Fish Community Goals and Objectives of the Lake Erie Committee of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (of which Ontario is a signatory). These goals include a desire to protect and restore stream spawning stocks of walleye and to maintain and promote genetic diversity by identifying, rehabilitating, conserving, and/or protecting locally adapted stocks, such as the Grand River walleye. The Port Dover station of the Lake Erie

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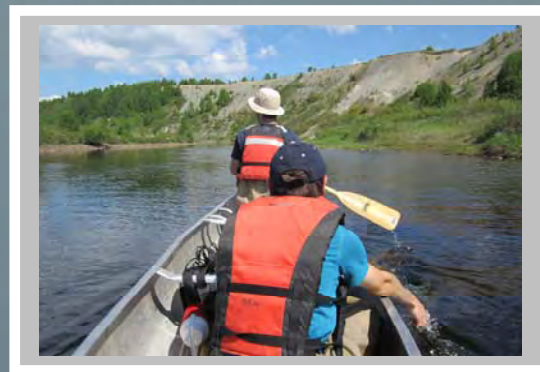


Photo: Canoeing the Magpie river, Wawa, ON.
Photo courtesy of Patrick Rivers

North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society

This new fisheries society, whose goal is to promote the conservation, restoration, development, awareness, and wise use of sturgeon and paddlefish fisheries, was established in 2012. For more information please visit the website: <http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org/>

Photo below: North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society Logo.
Photo courtesy of NASPS



History Bytes

The Ontario Chapter has had 9 elections for the various positions on the ExComm. The Southern Ontario Chapter had 15 elections and the Northwestern Ontario Chapter had 20 elections.

Candidate Biography for the position of President-Elect: **Ann Rocchi**

Ann Rocchi, M.Sc., has over 18 years of experience in fish and wildlife studies in Canada and abroad. Her experience includes launching detailed bio-inventories and environmental impact assessments as both project manager and as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Collective work in lake and river systems includes: fish inventories, habitat assessment, fish habitat compensation design, implementation and monitoring, comparative community studies, age and diet analysis, and zooplankton, benthos and water chemistry collection. She has designed sampling programs, supervised installation works and monitored post-construction success of numerous fish habitat compensation projects throughout Ontario, Quebec New Brunswick and British Columbia. She has worked closely with First Nations in remote communities to co-operatively develop fisheries projects, including consultation and the collection and interpretation of baseline data. Ann has been an AFS Ontario Chapter Member for ten years and is currently employed as a Senior Fisheries Biologist for GENIVAR Inc., based in Peterborough, Ontario. She has three daughters who all bait their own hooks and a husband with a boat.



Photo below: YOY Rainbow Trout enter their new home at the fish farm.

Photo courtesy of Coldwater Fisheries

Photo below: Magpie river., near Wawa, ON
Photo courtesy of Lauren Sicoly



Photo left: Ann Rocchi with sampling gear in Northern Quebec.

Photo courtesy of Ann Rocchi



Photo left: Past-President Dean Fitzgerald discusses the 2012 AGM with daughter, Amelia.

Photo courtesy of Ann Rocchi



Photo right: Brook Stickleback,
Photo courtesy of Lauren Sicoly

Featured Institution: Trent University

By: Michael Fox, Professor of Environmental & Resources Studies and Biology

Trent University is located on the banks of the Otonabee River in Peterborough, Ontario. This region of numerous lakes and rivers offers a wide variety of research and teaching opportunities in aquatic science for Trent's faculty and students. Combined with a faculty enriched with aquatic scientists from government and industry, Trent is renowned for its teaching and research opportunities in this field. Trent is fortunate to have Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) aquatic scientists on campus. MNR scientists participate extensively in Trent academic programs as adjuncts in the Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program, serve as guest speakers, and supervise Honours students in undergraduate programs.

Trent University offers a broad range of undergraduate courses in fisheries and related fields through their degree programs in Biology and Environmental & Resource Studies. These include fish ecology, fisheries assessment and management, limnology, wetland management, aquatic pollution ecology, environmental toxicology, global change of aquatic ecosystems, and marine mammals. Most of these courses include field and laboratory components. For example, in the fish ecology course, students seine fishes from the Otonabee River and assess fish community attributes, and they also do stomach content analyses and age and growth determination on selected species. Trent has considerable research expertise in the areas of fisheries and fish biology. Recent graduate students have completed work on areas as diverse as mechanisms of range expansion in invasive fishes to understanding how fish contribute to nutrient cycling in agricultural streams. Fish toxicology and the environmental control of contaminants are also areas well represented on Trent's campus.

All students have access to excellent facilities for research projects in fisheries and aquatic sciences. The recently opened DNA Building

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Funding Available for AFS-OC Social Events

Is your organization holding a conference or event and you'd like to include an evening social or are you an individual who would love to host a get-together with other AFS-OC members? If so, the AFS-OC Executive Committee has made available funds up to \$250 to assist individuals or organizations interested in hosting an AFS-OC Social Event. So far this year, the ExComm has sponsored two successful evening socials, including one at the Class I Electrofishing Course in Peterborough and another at the EEEF Conference at the University of Windsor.

Please contact the AFS-OC Treasurer Katie Easterling (treasurer@afs-oc.org) and provide a brief description of your event, including where and when it will be held. This description will be used to advertise your event through the AFS-OC listserve. In order to qualify for reimbursement, a summary of the event for the next newsletter and original receipts will need to be provided.

Photo below: Trent University campus
Photo courtesy of Trent University archives



Upcoming Ontario Chapter Events

Ontario Chapter AGM

Date

February 28-March 02, 2013

Website

<http://www.afs-oc.org>

Featured Institution (continued from page 5)

houses a substantial amount of equipment for molecular genetic analyses, including three automated sequencers, automated real-time polymerase chain reaction equipment, microarray equipment and automated liquid handlers that are being used for studies of fish population genetics and the use of environmental DNA for early detection of invasive fishes. The Chemical Sciences Building houses the Worsfold Water Quality Centre, including a range of high quality analytical instruments accessible to students studying metals and contaminants in fishes and trophic levels through stable isotope analysis. The 270-acre field station (James Maclean Oliver Ecological Centre (<http://www.trentu.ca/academic/oliver>) is located on Pigeon Lake and is about a 45 minute drive from campus. It provides students with easy access to the heavily used and regionally important Kawartha Lakes.

For more information on the academic opportunities provided at Trent University, please visit <http://www.trentu.ca/>.

Fish Anaesthetic Update

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted amended authorization for the use of AQUI-S®20E, a sedative drug, to allow for the immediate release of freshwater finfish sedated as part of field-based fisheries management activities.

Although this does not apply to Canada it is hoped that Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Directorate will follow suit shortly. For further information, please see the full Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) press release at http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=afwa_press_releases&prid=180



Photo above: Trent U's Fish Community Lab seining. Photo courtesy of Mike Fox

Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan

On July 3, 2012 the Province released their Invasive Species Strategic plan.

This document may be viewed at:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@biodiversity/documents/document/stdprod_097634.pdf

Photo below: Seining in the Fish Ecology Lab, of Trent University.

Photo courtesy of Mike Fox



Upcoming Ontario Chapter Training

To Be Announced

Date

TBA

Website

<http://www.afs-oc.org>

Student Subunit News

Attention Ontario Chapter Students

The Ontario Chapter Student Subunit is seeking nominations from motivated students to serve as Student Vice President.

Duties will include participation on conference calls with the OC Executive Committee, helping plan and execute the Chapter Annual General Meeting, and planning Student Subunit events (e.g., courses, socials, presentations, etc.).

Please send nominations to student-president@afs-oc.org.

Nominations will close November 1, 2012 and an email election will take place shortly thereafter (if necessary).



Photo above: University of Waterloo grad students, Jeff Muirhead and Adrienne Smith address the audience at the Emo Walleye Classic, Emo, ON
Photo courtesy of Adrienne Smith

AFS-OC Online Store

Looking for gifts for the boss, the intern, that special someone? Look no further than the Ontario Chapter On-line store. Check it out at:

<http://afs-oc.org/cgi-bin/online/storepro.php>



Looking for a job for the summer of 2013?

The 2012-2013 Campaign for the Federal Student Work Experience program (FSWEP) begins on October 29, 2012 and will run until late October 2013. The FSWEP program is the only way that federal departments hire students for summer jobs. Most positions begin to be filled by early to mid January. Apply early.

For more info or to apply please visit the website at:

<http://jobs-emplois.gc.ca/fsweep-pfete/index-eng.htm>

Ontario Student Subunit Events

TBA

Date

TBA

Website

<http://www.afs-oc.org>

Candidate Biography for the position of Secretary:

Robin Gáspárdy

Robin is a young professional getting her start in Ontario fisheries. Having recently graduated in February 2012 from University of Guelph (H.B.Sc. Marine and Freshwater Biology, Certificate of Environmental Conservation) she already has a number of contracts under her belt and a fair amount of field work experience. She has worked as a summer student in the Species at Risk lab of the Biodiversity Science Section of Fisheries and Oceans Canada for three summers conducting field work throughout southern Ontario using a variety of gear types in various sized bodies of water. She has also spent a summer applying Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP), conducting fish rescues, and monitoring Species at Risk with Conservation Halton. Robin has completed fall and winter contracts with DFO as well, during which time she assisted with data entry, analysis, and preparation for reports and presentations including a presentation given by Jason Barnucz at the 2012 AFS-OC AGM. Robin is currently working as an Aquatic Science Technician with Biodiversity Science at DFO.

While Robin can catch fish in nets and with electricity, she is working diligently on her angling skills in her spare time and began fishing BASS tournaments with the Hamilton Bassmasters this past summer. She is passionate about biodiversity and the protection of fish habitat and is eager to become more involved in the Ontario fisheries community.



New Mussel App for I-Phones, I-Pads, and I-Pods

This free app, developed by Todd Morris (DFO-Burlington), is now available for download. Simply click on the link below or search "Canadian Freshwater Mussel Guide" in the app store.

<http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/canadian-freshwater-mussel/id559800962?mt=8>

This app has been developed as a reference guide containing descriptions and photos of all Canadian species as well as a functioning key allowing users to determine potential species lists for any location in Canada and to assist in the identification of specimens in hand using a few simple characters.

Photo left: Robin Gáspárdy poses with a Silver Shiner. Photo courtesy of Robin Gáspárdy

Photo below: Transport truck delivers YOY Rainbow Trout to their new home on Manitoulin Island. Photo courtesy of Coldwater Fisheries



Photo left: American Brook Lamprey. Photo courtesy of Lauren Sicoly



Photo right: Tiger Trout (hybrid of a female brook trout and male brown trout). Photo courtesy of Ann Rocchi

Candidate Biography for the position of Secretary: **Sarah Hogg**

I completed my academic studies at Sir Sandford Fleming College in the Ecosystem Management Technology program and furthered my education at Trent University, where I majored in Environmental Science with a specialization in Ecological Management. I've been involved in the field of aquatic ecosystems since graduation; from small headwaters to large regulated rivers and coastal wetlands to inland lakes. I have worked for several conservation authorities conducting stream and river monitoring, worked in OMNR's Fisheries Policy Section, and completed a two-year internship researching aquatic species at risk in OMNR's Aquatic Research Section.

My work has allowed me to work with a variety of aquatic organisms, including fish, benthic invertebrates, freshwater mussels and crayfish. I joined the River and Stream Ecology Lab with OMNR in November 2011 and am presently working with Dr. Nick Jones as a Research Technician.



Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program

Are you interested in learning more about DFO's Aquaculture programs? The Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program (AIMAP) recently launched a video which details how the program functions and the successes that the program has achieved. For more information and to watch the video:

<http://www.dev.ncr.dfo-mpo.ca/aquaculture/video/aqua20120504-temp-video.htm>

Photo left: Sarah Hogg poses with one of Wesleyville Creek's finest!
Photo courtesy of Sarah Hogg

Photo below: Mother bear and twin cubs in Wawa, ON,
Photo courtesy of Rick Elsner



Photo left: A reminder that not all waters in Ontario flow into the Great Lakes.
Photo courtesy of Bill Gardner

Photo right: Silver Lamprey wounds on a Lake Sturgeon, Rainy River ON.
Photo courtesy of Bill Gardner and Adrienne Smith



Grand River Walleye (continued from page 3)

Management Unit works in partnership with three OFAH clubs to fulfill commitment to this goal and mitigate the effects of the dam on the population. Each spring with the assistance of the “tri-clubs” (Port Colbourne Conservation Club, Dunnville and District Hunters and Anglers Conservation Club, Fort Erie Conservation Club) and the local Riverside Marina, the waters downstream of the dam complex are electrofished. Walleye are collected and held in live-well tanks by MNR and club members, working in separate boats. After transport to holding pens at the marina the fish are sampled to determine length, weight, age (scale sample taken), previous tags, sex and spawning condition, and are tagged with both a pit tag and jaw tag. Tag returns are used to track movement and to determine population demographics. Most of the walleye are then transported upstream by truck and released above the dam. Our office has been involved in this effort since the 1990s; however the tri-clubs have been targeting the spawning run for decades, using captured fish for hatchery brood stock and stocking reared offspring into the river each June. Since 2000, hundreds of walleye per year have been given access to preferred spawning grounds above the dam. Indications are that the effort is paying off, reflected in increased signs of GR walleye production during fall surveys.

Supporting the Grand River walleye stock through assisted access and supplementary stocking is seen as stop-gap measures, helping to sustain the population until larger scale rehabilitation can be accomplished. In the meantime, this program provides an opportunity to work together in the field with our partners and stakeholders, share information about the fishery, and experience the resource first-hand.

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Have an idea for an article? Ran across a useful web link? Got photos to share?

Contact the Editor, Bill Gardner at newsletter@afs-oc.org.



Photo above: Transferring walleye above the Dam.
Photo courtesy of Felix Barbetti

Photo below Tom MacDougall and Wyatt Hall tagging walleye with PIT tag.
Photo courtesy of: Dixie Greenwood



Please have items for the December issue of
The Lateral Line submitted by
November 25, 2012