



NEWSLETTER

of the

**SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

VOLUME 1. number 2

February 1989

'Commitment to conservation, development and the wise use of recreational and commercial fisheries; promotion of all branches of fisheries science and practice; and exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries and related subjects in Southern Ontario.'

-- President's Corner --

by
Les Stanfield

Henk Rietveld and I attended the North Central Division annual (NCD) meeting and executive retreat in December. This activity was gratefully assisted by a \$100.00 donation from the division to our chapter. The retreat for chapter representatives and executives from the Parent Society and division enlightened us on the services available, and activities of both the Parent Society and divisions of AFS. In addition we were called upon to provide ideas on how the AFS can better serve us as a Canadian chapter.

Throughout the meeting, as problems and solutions were discussed, I realized more than ever before how all fisheries professionals are confronted by many similar issues. I became convinced that by working together through AFS we will be able to more effectively manage our fisheries resources.

The main task of the AFS divisions is to coordinate dissemination of information between resource managers working on issues of a "similar" geographic nature. This is accomplished through the bi-annual newsletter (soon to become tri-annual) and the annual conference of the NCD.

Numerous committees such as the Walleye, Fish Genetics, Rivers and Streams, Continuing Education and Resolutions committees have also been formed to address regionally important topics. Through these committees, professionals share information and work together in an attempt to solve common problems. Anyone interested in serving on, or forming a committee can contact me for more information.

The NCD also offers a number of courses on topics such as Community Dynamics, Technical Report Writing, Bioenergetics and Statistics. Chapters can either hold these 'set' courses or they can obtain assistance in setting up their own course or workshop.

During the retreat several suggestions were made as to how the division can even better serve the chapters. These included: providing publishing and advertising support; financial and personal support for chapter organized activities, and letters to support chapter activities.

Several ideas were put forth to encourage more involvement by members in AFS activities. It was suggested that AFS should work towards removing the veil of secrecy which surrounds how committee members and executive appointments are made. Asking the membership to get involved in specific activities was suggested as one technique to get new blood into the Society. The importance of involving students in both Parent Society and chapter activities was also emphasized.

The Canadian contingent provided many ideas as to how AFS can better serve the members north of the 48th.

We suggested that the recent defeat of the proposed name change caused some concern to Canadians about the

international nature of the society. The discussion that followed showed that this issue is far from dead. The problem revolves around two points. 1) AFS must become more involved in Canada, and 2) Canadians must show that they want more AFS involvement. Once these conditions exist then the time would be more appropriate to reassess the name of the society.

There was some discussion about why AFS has failed to be as effective in Canada as it is in the States and how we might change this. The differences in the two political systems and historical difficulties with Canadian lobby efforts have limited the effectiveness of AFS in this country. It was suggested that the 'climate' has changed and if AFS was to establish a branch office in Canada then activities of the society could be much more effective.

To address this whole issue of *Canadian Involvement* in AFS, AFS president Bob White has set up a *Canadian Concerns Committee*, on which our own Henk Rietveld serves (see article below).

By now it should be apparent that AFS is serious about Canadian concerns. It's up to us to show them we want the support of the society.

If you're already a member, great. If you're not, please join now and talk to your colleagues about joining. Please, get involved. Let us know what you want from your chapter and from the society. With that, happy fishing.

See you at the workshop/meeting.

CANADIAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Henk Rietveld has been appointed to the "Canadian Concerns Committee" of the Parent Society to represent you, as Canadian members of the AFS, in matters of a uniquely Canadian nature. These include such things as dues structures, correspondence problems, trans-boundary fisheries concerns, and so on. If something is really bugging you as a Canadian member of what traditionally (but no longer) has tended to be an American organization, please send your comments and concerns to:

Henk Rietveld
R.R. #1
Huntsville, Ont.
POA 1K0

And he will try to address them with the Parent Society. Our new president, Bob White, has made it a personal priority to increase the relevance of the society to members outside the USA, and this committee is one way in which we can help him to achieve his goal. We welcome your participation in this exercise.

ANNOUNCING
**AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER**

1ST ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP

DATES: APRIL 8 - 9, 1989
LOCATION: LESLIE FROST NATURAL RESOURCES CENTRE
DORSET, ONTARIO
THEME: WORKING TOGETHER FOR EFFECTIVE FISH HABITAT
MANAGEMENT

From the outset of the effort to organize a southern Ontario chapter of fisheries professionals, it was recognized that a singular outstanding requirement (and thus objective) of any chapter should be to foster a greater degree of understanding, liaison, and (especially) information transfer between professionals. This has come from a realization that much of our work as fisheries managers and/or researchers tends to become, with time, increasingly limited in both circulation and scope to those specific organizations and contacts with which we are employed. Valuable and highly applicable information of immediate interest regarding the dominant issues of our region is therefore often not utilized to its fullest simply because professionals in one or another sector of the field are not made aware of its existence. In addition, lead agency policies and methods are often largely unknown or misunderstood by individuals in both the private and the public sector due to a simple lack of dialogue between various groups of professionals.

To that end, it has been resolved that the Southern Ontario Chapter will organize, on an annual basis, one major workshop to deal specifically with a dominant issue of fisheries resource management in our area, involving input from the widest spectrum possible so that members can examine and discuss the issues in a free manner, unencumbered by the sponsorship or stewardship of any major agency. These meetings will be organized in such a way as to allow individuals to examine issues using the "other guys" policies, guidelines, and objectives, and thus hopefully gain a fuller appreciation of the entire issue.

Due to the tremendous pressures that rampant land development in southern Ontario is placing on fisheries habitat, the issue of fish habitat protection is a particularly relevant topic for our initial "flagship" workshop. This gathering will be scheduled over two days, examining three main themes:

1. What are the federal and provincial lead agency policies governing fish habitat protection, and how are they enforced?
2. How do other government agencies whose mandates relate to the aquatic environment ensure effective habitat protection?
3. How do private sector, advocacy, and public representational groups help or approach habitat protection?

The first day of the workshop (see schedule) will centre around an afternoon speakers session, which will bring forth

representatives of major agencies, municipalities, private companies, and public groups to explain their role in fish habitat protection. A tentative list of speakers is presented below. This initial day will also involve, in the evening, the 1st Annual Business Meeting of the Chapter, the details of which are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Taking its cue from the information presented and questions raised on the first day, the Sunday morning session will involve the establishment of small groups to "brainstorm" these issues and present their findings/opinions to their assembled colleagues. Following the Workshop, we have tentatively planned to compile a proceedings for future reference.

This gathering won't be all business, of course. There will be plenty of time for, shall we say, less formal information transfer (gossip) at the various social breaks, including lunch, a mixer, and supper on Saturday. Other goings-on will include a silent auction of donated fishing-related equipment (attendees are encouraged to donate whatever they can spare - old lures, rods, etc.) and the sale of some parent-society publications. We feel that the Leslie Frost Centre is an ideal facility for our workshop, with on-site accommodation, meals, conference rooms, and experience at handling dignified, reserved scientists such as we are(!).

The executive Committee cannot overemphasize the need for **PARTICIPATION** in this workshop and business meeting in order to both establish our chapter on a solid organizational footing, and to demonstrate the value of such an association to those individuals who inevitably will delay joining until concrete benefits are seen. It is time for us -- the fisheries professionals of southern Ontario -- to commit to our profession, and our own professional growth, and to put money, time, and effort where our collective mouth is. It is no use complaining after the fact that fisheries science does not get the respect it deserves if we ourselves do not have enough self-commitment to organize and adopt a more unitary approach to our profession. A well-organized and unified chapter can eventually have tremendous benefits for its members -- not only for transfer of information, but coordination of research effort, the promotion of proper biologically-sound management, greater recognition of the importance of fisheries resources in our region and so on.

We are at a critical juncture in our chapter's development, and we need a show of support. See you all in Dorset!

Ken Harris

In case you missed it in the November - December issue of Fisheries, the AFS has adopted the proposal to change the scientific of the rainbow trout. The new name Oncorhynchus mykiss will more closely reflect its similarity to other pacific salmon.

**TENTATIVE PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS
HABITAT PROTECTION WORKSHOP**

*Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
OMNR (Eastern Region)
OMNR (Algonquin Region)
Ministry of the Environment
Ontario Hydro
Ministry of Transportation
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
City of Mississauga
M.M. Dillon Ltd.
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
Trout Unlimited
Black Creek Project*

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
1ST ANNUAL SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP, APRIL 8-9, 1989
DORSET, ONTARIO**

Saturday	10:00 - 12:00	EXCOM Meeting
	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
	1:00 - 1:30	Introduction
	1:30 - 5:00	Presentations (20 mins each)
	5:00 - 5:30	Mixer
	5:30 - 6:30	Supper
	7:00 - 9:00	Annual Meeting
Sunday	8:30 - 9:00	Charges to Working Groups
	9:00 - 10:30	Working Groups Meeting
	10:30 - 10:45	Coffee
	10:45 - 11:30	Reports
	11:30 - 12:00	Wrap-up.

NOTE: We have also been informed that Bob White, President of the AFS, will be attending and will address the meeting regarding the role of our chapter and members, the AFS view of our organization, and the AFS new initiative into Canadian fisheries concerns and issues.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Please hold a space for me (and the others I have listed below) at the Leslie Frost Centre for the workshop. I understand that this registration does not guarantee me accommodation at the Leslie Frost Centre and that particulars will be more fully explained in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER.

(It is hoped that all participants can be accommodated at the Centre for about \$35.00/day).

NAMES : 1.

2.

3.

4.

AFFILIATION :

ADDRESS :

PHONE :

**1ST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
AGENDA**

DATE : APRIL 7, 1989
TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
PLACE: LESLIE FROST CENTRE - located about 15km south of Dorset,
Ontario on Hwy 35.

An effective Chapter does not run itself -- it requires: genuine input from its members, leaders to act upon that input, a decision making process and finances. These items and more are the purpose of the Annual Business Meeting.

A. This article will constitute first notice of a *CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM), 1989-90.* These positions are as follows:

PRESIDENT - oversees all Chapter activities; plans and presides at all Chapter meetings; chairs EXCOM; appoints members to committees; prepares mid-year and annual progress reports; attends parent society and divisional meetings; delegates authority for projects.

PRESIDENT-ELECT - assumes duties of President in his/her absence; assumes Presidency in subsequent year; voting member of EXCOM; anticipates need for committee appointments; undertakes special assignments.

SECRETARY - prepares for EXCOM minutes of all Chapter business functions; sends annual meeting minutes to AFS Director; sends minutes and Newsletters to Divisional President; prepares correspondence; prepares documents directed by EXCOM; voting member of EXCOM.

TREASURER - receives, manages, and disburses funds as instructed for Chapter operations; maintains financial records; prepares annual financial report; prepares annual budget as instructed; voting member of EXCOM.

Nominations (see ballot at the end of the Newsletter) can be forwarded by any member of the Chapter and AFS Parent Society. These nominations may be sent to the President at the following address:

Les Stanfield
283 Patterson
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 3L9 (or phone them in at 416-832-7128)

Nominations will be compiled, candidates presented, and ballots supplied in the next Newsletter. Voting will be allowed up to and including the Annual Meeting, where the new EXCOM will be announced. Give these positions some serious thought; while it is true that they require time, these jobs are vital and can be highly enjoyable, allowing an individual to become fully involved in his/her profession, make lasting contacts, and contribute substantially to the advancement of fisheries science in southern Ontario. **THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS FEBRUARY 28.**

- B. The Annual Meeting will involve a report by EXCOM on Chapter activities to date, planned projects, finances, and membership.
- C. Chapter bylaws must be approved by vote at the Annual Meeting.
- D. Committees (Standing and Special) will be discussed and established at the Annual Meeting.
- E. Future Workshop topics will be solicited and discussed.
- F. Motions from the floor will be entertained to suggest/discuss Chapter activities, policies, procedures, and need for Special Committees (in response to specific issues).
- G. The Chapter logo will be selected.
- H. Through a silent auction, bar sales, and book sales at the Workshop, we also hope to assist in the vital financing of the Chapter.

Overall, we look to this 1st Annual Meeting to be a free and frank exchange of views on the Chapter's structure and operation. Once again, the key is for you to **PARTICIPATE !**

-- NOTES FROM THE SOCIETY --

During the NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION meeting three RESOLUTIONS were approved to be forwarded to the appropriate agencies. These resolutions have been included here for your information.

All three of the following resolutions were adopted by the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society at its annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio on December 5, 1968.

PROPOSED GREAT LAKES INLAND WATERWAY

Whereas, the proposed Great Lakes Inland Waterway, with a \$1 million feasibility study currently underway by the Army Corps of Engineers, would potentially be a 120 mile canal and a 30-mile long reservoir linking the upper Ohio River with Lake Erie via a system of locks and dams; and

Whereas, connection of the Ohio River and Lake Erie drainages will result in inter-drainage transfer of fish species, including the transfer of sea lamprey and other exotic organisms from Lake Erie to the Ohio River drainage, thus resulting in adverse effects on native species;

Therefore, be it resolved that because construction of the proposed Great Lakes Inland Waterway will cause unacceptable environmental damage, the north Central Division of the American Fisheries Society opposes the construction of the waterway and urges legislators to critically examine the potential environmental impacts of this proposed project.

DISCHARGE OF BALLAST WATER FROM OCEAN-GOING VESSELS
ENTERING THE GREAT LAKES

Whereas, the Great Lakes constitute a valuable resource yielding annual economic benefits in excess of \$2 billion from recreational and commercial fishing; and

Whereas, exotic organisms such as Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*), the predacious zooplankter "B.C." (*Bythotrephes cederstroemi*), the perch-like ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), and the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are being introduced with discharges of ballast water from ocean-going vessels entering the Great Lakes, and such introduction of exotic organisms will impact native ecosystem biota in unknown ways through predation, competition, infection, genetic interactions, and habitat degradation; and

Whereas, in years 1978-1987, more than 7,800 overseas vessels, 39% in full ballast, were recorded entering the Great Lakes, each carrying an average or more than 7,000 metric tonnes of water and thousands of live exotic organisms; and

Whereas, it is not practical to eradicate invading organisms once established in the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, exchange of ballast water in the open ocean prior to discharge in the Great Lakes is considered a cost-effective control measure;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society joins Great Lakes fishery agencies, the International Joint Commission, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, in urging the U.S. and Canadian governments to enact appropriate regulations and eliminate the serious threats that ballast water introductions pose to the integrity and value of the Great Lakes fisheries.

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION FUNDING

Whereas, the total economic value of the Great Lakes combined commercial and recreational fishery is between \$2 and \$4 billion per year; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes sport fishery is a thriving industry enjoyed by over four million anglers who spend 55 million angler days on the lakes per year; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has for over thirty years provided the sea lamprey control programs, and interstate and binational coordination of fishery research, planning and management programs that have revitalized and protected the fishery; and

Whereas, an anticipated budget shortfall of \$2.7 million from its FY 1990 budget request of \$9.6 million would allow resurgence of the sea lamprey; reduce the value of the fishery; compromise Great Lakes Fishery Commission activity; increase requirements for hatchery fish; reduce research programs; interrupt data continuity; decimate staff and eliminate program elements; and

Whereas, the North Central Division of The American Fisheries Society recognizes that the current programs of the Fishery Commission are vital to the Great Lakes fishery and the environmental health, economic welfare and quality of life of the region's residents;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Central Division of The American Fisheries Society urges the United States and Canadian federal governments to take all measures necessary to eliminate the budget shortfall and to maintain an essential level of sea lamprey management and monitoring in all Great Lakes, and to continue research activities.

Be it further resolved that the North Central Division of The American Fisheries Society will work with officials of the Great Lakes states, the Province of Ontario, and appropriate federal agencies and interest groups to secure the funds needed to eliminate the anticipated shortfall and address current and anticipated sea lamprey management needs.

**SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER of the AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Response to our first issue of the *Newsletter* was outstanding and we are well on our way to establishing a strong and diverse membership of fisheries professionals and other interested people.

We continue to solicit you and your colleagues to join the chapter; not only to benefit from your association with an esteemed professional society, but in order to contribute to the well-being of fisheries management in southern Ontario.

Completed membership applications must include a \$5.00 cheque made payable to: 'Southern Ontario Chapter AFS' and should be mailed to the Membership Committee chairman: David McLeish, 29 Lynd Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M6R 1T8.

NAME :
AFFILIATION :
ADDRESS :

PHONE :

A CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S ROLE IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

by

Geza Gaspardy

Credit Valley Conservation Authority

The Credit River, on the doorstep of Canada's greatest population centre, provides some of the best trout and salmon angling opportunities in southern Ontario. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) has been active in the fisheries management of this system since 1982 with at least one stream rehabilitation crew (2 in 1988) in the field each summer. More than 35 site projects were completed in those seven seasons on 17 properties. In excess of 100 km of stream have been documented using the Stream Habitat Assessment methodology of the MNR. We have conducted or supervised 4 creel surveys: three of the upper Credit brook and brown trout fishery as well as a fall survey of the lower system's salmon run. Qualitative and quantitative electrofishing studies have been included annually in our work. We provide manpower and equipment assistance to several projects originating with other agencies. Development controls imposed through plan input and review, and regulations enforcement help minimize impacts of construction both instream and within the catchment area.

Our watershed spans the boundary of Cambridge and Maple Districts of MNR and includes a small corner of Huronia. Two Regions of Ministry of the Environment have jurisdiction in our watershed. Fourteen municipalities are represented in the Authority's membership. CVCA's fisheries management programs are not executed in isolation of other agencies. In fact, these programs would be virtually nonexistent except for a high level of cooperation with many other agencies and groups. The CVCA's role has become one of coordinator of a variety of resources and interests.

The Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) has been very active in this watershed for several years with field projects funded through CFIP or their own resources. Recently though, with growing membership and highly effective fund raising banquets TU has provided funding for a major rehabilitation project, the bottom draw conversion of CVCA's Belfountain Conservation Area dam on the West Credit River. With a major capital contribution from the Izaak Walton Fly Fishermen's Club (IWFFC) a significant reduction in summer water temperatures is expected to benefit the brown trout fishery several kilometers downstream.

MNR has annually supported CVCA's stream rehabilitation program to varying degrees, augmenting our own limited funds. However, the largest portion of total costs have been covered by various special employment programs (Federal: Section 38, SEED; and Provincial: EXPERIENCE, ENVIRONMENT YOUTH CORPS) providing labour and, until 1988, support costs. Traditionally, these programs have been unavailable to MNR. Since 1982 CVCA's basic and special employment program contributions have yielded a 10 times multiplier to the Ministry's aid.

In 1988 MNR's Experimental Management Fisheries Fund (EMFF), through Cambridge and Maple, funded a creel survey of the upper Credit as an element of a 6 yr. study to determine the impacts of proposed, special angling regulations. A parallel study on Whiteman's Creek in the Grand River system involved staff from the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA). A second EMFF proposal has been submitted jointly by Cambridge, Maple, GRCA and CVCA to quantify the effects of instream natural debris removal on brown and brook trout in Mill Creek and the West Credit River respectively. Such projects have served to strengthen the relationships between these agencies to the benefit of the local fisheries.

'Conservation through co-operation' was recently adopted as the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's slogan giving focus for all resources planning and fisheries management projects. The Authority's programs take direction from the concept of the watershed as basic unit for resources management. Consequently as is the case with most CA's, we deal with several administrative units of various ministries and agencies. Our new slogan becomes substantial when our role with user groups (TU, IWFFC, Ducks Unlimited, Rattray Marsh Protection Association and others), member municipalities, Provincial and Federal agencies is examined.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS BALLOT

Formal election of an EXCOM will be conducted at the annual business meeting April 7, 1989 (evening) at the Leslie Frost Centre. We invite your nomination(s) for : President, President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The nominations committee assumes that you have the consent of your candidate.

YOUR NAME :
CANDIDATE'S NAME :

YOUR PHONE NO. :
NOMINATED FOR :