



TRI-ANGLER NEWS

GEORGIAN TRIANGLE ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Prepared by Pat Sawyers

My first order of business is to apologize to all for my lack of newsletter communication. Now where am I to begin? It's the middle of July already.

We have just finished our Annual Rainbow Trout Derby. Our Derby committee worked very hard to arrange the myriad of details and ran the roads to service the weigh stations. Thank you Derby Committee. The final tally of money raised will be available as soon as our treasurer gets all the outstanding bills and crunches the numbers. It is a sad but true fact that the fish weighed in were smaller again this year. Lets hope that it is a temporary trend.

We have recently acquired patio door (and installed it) and washroom equipment through the generosity of Gary Lawrence. We have received permission to install these from the NVCA (Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority). We will soon be looking for volunteers and skilled craftsmen to help with this chore. Talk to Doug Parton our Buildings and Grounds Director. This year we will try to focus a little more on improving our Hatchery location, including our Club House. We also must do some work on the foundation of the clubhouse. We are to get estimates from contractors and submit these to the NVCA. We will decide later how will divide up the cost with them.

We have done the preliminary work on a Trillium Grant. The grant, if we are successful will be used to "fix" the upper hatchery and buy new tanks and equipment for the rest of the hatchery.

We have discussed, informally, over the last few meetings about activities in the summer months. June was our last meeting for the season. It would be nice to have a club picnic/BBQ during August. It has since been scheduled for Aug 26th, 07

I personally like to see the club property used by the members and their families. If you have any suggestions please contact me Pat Sawyers or Rick Baldry (Entertainment director).

We have a couple of members or their families with medical issues. On behalf of the club members they are in our hearts and in our thoughts.

Hatchery report

150,000 Brown, 10,000 speckled and 150,000 rainbow trout were raised this year and were released July 7th and 8th. Eggs were treated for VHS (editor - see article at the end of the newsletter) according to MNR requirements and many hours were spent picking eggs. The CFIP grant was approved for 2007.

Buildings and Grounds report

A cleanup of the grounds occurred in June and a new patio door was added to the building. It certainly lets in a great deal of light. The patio is now being constructed. An upgrade to the existing washrooms is being investigated with the NVCA.

Stream Rehabilitation

Throughout the year, beaver dams are broken up to allow fish to move up river to spawn and down river to return to Georgian Bay. Dams were broken up on the Batteaux River releasing approx 50 fish and the Silver River. The Trillium Grant request will help with a number of stream rehabilitation projects.

Ways and means report

The spring trout derby was very successful this year. Many prizes were donated for daily prizes as well as for the silent auction at the wrap-up dinner. The Trillium Grant request is completed for stream rehabilitation projects as well as repairs/renovations to the hatchery buildings and clubhouse. A showcase is being considered to display the GTAA clothing that is available to members.

GTAA Volunteer Awards Program

Each year we record our volunteer hours and when you volunteer for over ## hours, you receive a GTAA pin. Volunteer forms are available and members urged to fill them in and record their hours.

Membership Report

Memberships have been a little slow coming in this year with a few memberships still trickling in. To date, 96 families have registered for this year compared to 105 last year. Remember in order for you to continue as an Ontario Federation of Angler's and Hunters member and receive your "Ontario Out of Doors" magazine you must register now. If you are one of the one's that has just put it off, please send your membership in as soon as possible. Jay Kivell will be taking over membership from Lindsay Brannen this year and Lindsay thanks everyone for his or her help over the past 5 years.

Membership is key in order to keep our club active and viable for our conservation work to be a success. With the increasing pressures on the Georgian Triangle environment, it is essential that we keep up our important work.

Youth activities report

Students in the outdoor clubs from Jean Vanier and Elmvale H.S. volunteer each year for stream cleanup, building bird houses and planting trees from the NVCA. This year trees were planted on the Wye River. Cameron Street Public School has an outdoor club and is keen to be involved. The Optimist Club Kid's Fishing Derby was held on June 30 at the spit. We helped by making a donation to them.

Editor's message

Please send me articles, information, fishing equipment for sale etc. I hope to send out four newsletters each year. Watch this space for dates for upcoming newsletters, deadlines for articles etc. jkivell@sympatico.ca

Upcoming events

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Diaper Derby | Sunday August 12 th |
| BBQ | Sunday August 26 th Clubhouse |
| Executive meetings | Tuesday August 14 th 7:00 pm Clubhouse |
| | Tuesday September 11 th 7:00 pm Clubhouse |
| | Tuesday October 9 th 7:00 pm Clubhouse |
| | Tuesday November 13 th 7:00 pm Clubhouse |
| | Tuesday December 11 th 7:00 pm |

General meetings Wednesday September 19th 7:30 pm Clubhouse
 Wednesday October 17th 7:30 pm Clubhouse
 Wednesday November 21st 7:30 pm Clubhouse
 Wednesday December 19th 7:30 pm Rod and Gun Club

Private dredging questioned; Changes planned to deal with fish habitat Posted Wednesday, May 16, 2007 by [Spiel](#)
DON CROSBY / Osprey News Network
Collingwood - Friday, May 11, 2007

Although the mayor of The Blue Mountains wonders how it ever happened, dredging that created a channel and private harbour followed due process, a federal official says.

Brent Valere, a senior biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), says steps are being taken to alter changes to fish habitat caused by dredging and scraping of parts of the bottom of Nottawasaga Bay near Georgian Peaks ski club along Highway 26.

That action is a result of the failure of a group to comply with an agreement they made with DFO that included alterations to parts of Nottawasaga Bay in exchange for work done on streams in the area that needed restoration.

For some residents of The Blue Mountains it raises questions about how such a project could occur given the controls in place aimed at protecting the environment.

Those concerns were put in a letter to Valere by Mayor Ellen Anderson on April 4.

She wrote after receiving complaints from residents that excavation had created a channel and private harbour in front of property in the Camperdown area. The most visible evidence to passersby is the large pile of shale along Highway 26 adjacent to the property where the work was done.

Seen from the air, changes to the bottom of the bay are noticeable. In her letter, Anderson asks DFO to provide the municipality with a history of the events and whatever approvals were granted and any fines and penalties assessed against the owner of the property. She also wants assurances the property can't be sold until the remedial work has been complete and the debris removed.

According to Anderson, the property is now listed for sale at \$10.7 million.

Despite public perception, Valere said this is a case that's been monitored by the DFO from the inception of the project five years ago. A group received approval in 2002 to dredge a boat channel in Nottawasaga Bay opposite property in the Delphi Point area along Highway 26.

The agreement with DFO also involved creation of boat basins in front of the cottage and construction of stone walls as a breakwater. All of the work would be done in the water and none of it on the shore.

Since that would alter fish habitat, the proponents agreed to do some work on a couple of streams in the area that needed restoration - at the headwaters of Bothwell Creek where a damaged culvert was blocking the stream and another stream in the Camperdown area where a gabion basketworks had deteriorated and was blocking the stream.

"They got their authorization but with some compensation work," Valere said in an interview from Burlington.

The agreement called for the work in Nottawasaga Bay and the restoration work to be done by 2004. The deadline passed without the authorized work being done.

Valere said he began receiving reports in the spring of 2006 that work was being done in the bay without a renewal of the permit.

An aerial photo that Anderson submitted with her letter was taken last October and gives the impression that a much larger area has been dredged.

"I can understand the alarm of the public," said Valere.

But a narrow channel was cut about 90 metres out from the shore into Nottawasaga Bay about six metres deep and two metres wide. To the east of the channel is a large area that has been scraped as well.

Valere said people are altering the fish habitat all along Georgian Bay as the water levels rise and fall. While he admits DFO can't stop development, it will do all it can minimize the effect on fish habitat and the environment.

Requests to dredge channels increase when water levels in Georgian Bay drop and that has been happening more and more in recent years, Valere said.

"We would much prefer people to take their vessels to a nearby marina. This kind of dredging is very expensive."

And because the dredging has to be repeated every five years or so, "the maintenance costs outweigh the cost of having their boat near their property."

Valere said he has no jurisdiction over the disposal of the shale that's piled up on the adjacent lot along Highway 26. That is a matter for the municipality.

He also noted he's not bound to notify the municipality about what's happening on the waterways. However, he said he's preparing a report in answer to Anderson's letter to let her know that "due process is being followed."

The property owner could not be reached for comment.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

"Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia, or VHS for short, is an infectious disease of fish," explained Pilgrim. "There are several strains of VHS that affect fresh and saltwater fish species.

"VHS has been found in smallmouth bass, yellow perch, crappie, muskellunge, northern pike, bluegill, walleye, round gobies, sheepshead, and some sucker species. Scientists are concerned; however, that VHS could also strike native salmonids such as trout, salmon and whitefish in the wild, and salmonids in hatcheries and net pen operations."

During the past two years, the fish kills on Great Lakes have involved thousands of fish infected by the VHS; this virus was not previously known to exist in the freshwater environment of North America. The infectious viral disease has been found in fish from the Atlantic Coast of Europe and Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of North America. Historically, VHS was known as a very serious disease of freshwater-reared rainbow trout in Europe. At least four different genetic strains or forms of the virus are known to exist. The North American marine strain has a relatively low infection rate compared to that of the European freshwater strain. Until 2005, VHS was only found in the marine environment in North America. Several fish kills in the Lower Great Lakes since 2005 have been associated with VHS. To date, VHS has been confirmed from wild fish in the Bay of Quinte Lake Ontario, Lake St.

Clair, Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence River. Scientists believe that this appearance may represent an invasion of the freshwater strain in North America.

"We have just received notice that the virus has now been found the Lake Huron and is spreading across the Great Lakes, so it is very important that anglers do their part to help prevent its spread," emphasized Pilgrim.

It is unclear how the virus spread to the Great Lakes; it is possible the marine virus may have been introduced to the Great Lakes some time ago and it simply evolved to live in freshwater. The VHS virus is a strain that undergoes rapid mutations (spontaneous genetic changes) and may have adapted to freshwater environments in North America. Recently, VHS was found in stored fish samples that were collected in the Great Lakes during 2003, suggesting the virus has been present in the Great Lakes for some time.

It is unclear exactly how the disease is spread, but it appears that the virus can be shed by infected fish into the water through metabolic waste materials, particularly by fish that survive the disease and become carriers. It also appears that carrier fish or offspring of carriers become more resistant to the disease. The virus can infect fish of all ages. It may enter a host fish through the gills or food or contact with some contaminated object. It does appear that stressed fish more vulnerable to viral infection. Typical fish stressors include sudden water temperature changes, crowded hatchery conditions and, spawning activity. The timing of the recent fish die-off in the Great Lakes coincided with the spawning by some of the fish species, such as muskellunge.

“Like many fish diseases, the type of symptoms present in a fish change with the severity of the infection. At low infection intensity fish may display few to no symptoms as is the case in most wild disease outbreaks.

“Hatchery or pen-reared fish are much more susceptible because of the confined conditions. As the infection severity increases, fish become darker and the eyes bulge with some bleeding around the eye and base of the fins. The gills are usually quite pale with some pin point bleeding.

“Mortalities appear at this point because hemorrhaging reduces the oxygen carrying ability of the blood. Dark red patches may appear on the front and sides of the head.

“If the fish is opened up, bleeding on the surfaces of the intestine, liver, swim bladder can be seen. Fluid also builds up in the body cavity giving the fish a swollen belly. Later, if infection increases, the body continues to darken and the eyes really stick out of the head. At this point, the gills look gray or even white and the fish may swim in a corkscrew pattern. Most fish kills from VHS occur in water temperatures from

The detection of a VHS infection can only be made from sophisticated laboratory testing. A diagnosis cannot be made based solely on the observation of visible signs because many different diseases of fish have very similar signs of disease.

“There is no apparent health risk for people contracting VHS. Since it takes a long time to identify the causes of fish kills in lab studies, people should be cautioned against handling or eating any fish that does not act or appear to be healthy because of the risk of contracting avian botulism a bacterial disease that does pose a human health threat.”

The best management option is containment. Efforts should be made to eliminate or reduce the potential spread of the virus. Not moving fish from the endemic area to areas outside the Great Lakes is important and that is where anglers come in.

“Many of the same preventative actions that are taken to reduce the spread of invasive species may also be appropriate. These include cleaning of boats before moving them between different bodies of water; cleaning, draining and drying of live wells and not moving bait minnows or other live bait from an endemic area to a non-infected area.

“Washing out live wells with bleach, all the boat surfaces, and boating apparel that has been in the water, such as life jackets, can also help prevent the spread of the disease.

Pilgrim encourages fishers to use baitfish that has been harvested locally.

“My operation and others throughout the North Shore have been inspected by the Ministry of Natural Resources and our bait sources are all free of the virus.

“They are also located in unaffected zones and that is way we would like to keep it.

“When an angler wants to move their boat to another water body, they should remove all the mud, aquatic plants and animals from all the gear and the motor.

“When cleaning/gutting caught fish, they should ensure that the waste products do not contact other waterway, and dispose of fish internal organs, skin, scales, heads and tails in the garbage. Equipment and clothing used during angling activities should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Drying or exposure to sun light is also an acceptable method of killing the virus.

“After angling at a water body known to contain VHS, clean and disinfect live wells with a 10% household bleach/water solution. Rinse well to remove residual chlorine and discard away from the water. Chlorine is toxic to fish. Empty bait fish containers, live wells and bilges away from water, in an area where the water will be absorbed into the ground and do not discard baitfish in any water way.

“With these simple precautions, anglers can ensure they have a successful fishing season this year and in the years to come,” concluded Pilgrim.