



## **Angler Meeting**

Feb 4, 2015 at Port Credit Yacht Club (PCYC)

6 – 9 p.m.

### **Meeting overview**

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and local angling groups discussed fish habitat restoration opportunities along the Lake Ontario shoreline in Mississauga. CVC staff revealed recent findings from its comprehensive review of the shoreline. Participants contributed to the discussion by identifying specific areas for habitat restoration, with the goal of developing a comprehensive restoration plan.

### **Presentation overview presented by CVC staff**

Jon MacMull (Supervisor Marketing and Communications) – Introduction

Jon Clayton (Aquatic Biologist) – Lake Ontario Integrated Shoreline Strategy

Karen Chisholm (Program Coordinator, Special Projects) – Current shoreline projects

### **Audience**

Mississauga Bass Masters, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF), UnReel Charters, Credit River Anglers Association (CRAA), local Credit River anglers

### **Regrets**

Trout Unlimited Canada, Andrew's Charter, Reel Addiction Sport Fishing, Ontario Sport Fishing Guide Ontario, Salmon Express, Fish on Charter, Safetydude Fishing Charters, Izzi Charters, Muskies Canada, Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

## Meeting summary

### Part A – Questions asked by CVC staff

#### Cold water fisheries

1. Is anyone catching lake trout?

- St. Catharines is where I fish for lake trout.
- I have noticed that the lake trout population in the Credit is declining.

2. Where do you think lake trout are spawning?

- Lake trout are spawning less in the Credit and along the shoreline.
- I believe lake trout are spawning in the Niagara and St. Catharines region.
- The largest stock of lake trout is out east.

3. Is anyone catching brown trout?

- I used to catch a lot of brown trout. However, not as much anymore and I think this is because ever since the power plant closed, lower water temperatures have impacted the brown trout spawning.
- Personally, I didn't see a huge change this year in the number of browns I caught.
- Browns should be stocked along the shoreline of Texico.

4. Is anyone catching dog fish?

- No.

#### Warm water fisheries

1. Is anyone catching white bass?

- No. I am not familiar with white bass in the Credit.

- Port Credit used to commercially stock these fish in the 30's.

2. Do you ever see turtles?

- Yes, throughout the wetlands and along the shoreline.
- I see them basking in the sun along the Credit shoreline and around Toronto Island.

3. When are you seeing schools of bait fish?

- I see schools of shiners during May and June.
- Beginning of June is when I usually see the rainbow smelt come out.

4. Where are warm water fish spawning?

- In the mouth of the Credit there are good varieties of gravel, rock and sand where the fish like to spawn.
- There is a good mix of warm water species in Cooksville Creek.
- We should be working harder to get more pen projects – putting thousands of fish from a hatchery into the Credit.
- Right in the PCYC marina, right outside Samuel Smith, there is a lot of good rock there with lots of vegetation beds.

5. Is anyone catching bass?

- Yes but if you aren't catching bass, it's because the area that is loaded with pike.
- Bass need more places to spawn.
- Anglers used to be able to catch a lot of silver bass.

6. How often do you catch yellow perch?

- Not very often.
- I sometimes see them in the Port Credit marina.

- The weeds were really high this year, so we didn't catch many perch.

7. Does anyone see water snakes?

- No.

**Invasive species**

1. Do you ever see crayfish?

- No.

2. Do you ever see lamprey eel?

- No but I see a lot of lamprey bite marks on fish.
- New ways should be developed for managing lamprey spawning.

3. How far up the Credit have you seen gobies?

- I catch gobies near the Mississauga golf course and in Erindale.
- I see gobies towards the bottom of the Credit, closer to the lake.
- The two big ripples by the golf course are just too big for the gobies to get up.
- Gobies like to hug the bottom of the river but I think they are irritated with the bass bumping into them.

**Species at risk**

1. Is anyone catching walleye?

- No.
- The Credit should be stocked with walleye.

2. Is anyone catching coho salmon?

- I am catching them off the shoreline but not like I used to 10 years ago.



- Salmon used to be stocked near the top of the Credit River but the smell of dead fish in the fall brought the process to an end.
- I catch coho salmon in Niagara and St. Catharines.
- Humber, Port Credit and Bronte salmon populations are significantly decreasing.

**3. Is anyone catching sturgeon?**

- There have been reports of people catching them in Port Credit.
- I believe they come to spawn in the river and then leave for the lake.
- I don't think they are in the river long enough for us to understand their habits.
- Sturgeon is the oldest native fish to Lake Ontario.

**4. Do you ever see the yellow floating heart plant?**

- There have been few recorded sightings in Ontario and the Credit has two of them.

**5. Is anyone catching gar?**

- I saw one or two gar swimming in the mouth of the Credit River.
- I mainly see gar in Georgian Bay.

**Wetlands**

**1. Does anyone fish along the Lakefront Promenade shoreline?**

- This area of shoreline is ideal for fishing.
- I don't understand the development south of the promenade.
- It should all be developed as wetland, creating new spawning areas.

**2. Where could turtle basking areas be created?**

- I don't think that creating turtle basking areas benefits anglers.

- If creating basking areas is part of a healthy ecosystem, I am all for it.
- Developing new wetland spaces will create new vegetation and thus more places for fish to spawn.

**3. Where do you feel there are opportunities to create wetlands?**

- Gobies stay right to the ground, so if you elevated something so the bass has the small gravel etc. they have nesting opportunities there. That means they are less stressed and they can guard their nets longer.
- Lakefront Promenade is ideal for wetland creation. However, I don't understand the development south of the promenade. It should be all wetlands along the shoreline and not new recreational spaces.
- There are not a lot of contour changes along the shoreline that is attracting small mouth fish. There needs to be an area where recycled materials (like old tires) can create different depths for fish to spawn.
- Sault St. Marie is a good example of effective wetland creation. They have planted different berry bushes along the river that attract different kinds of wildlife and protect the shoreline.

**4. Do you feel there are opportunities to enhance pray fish?**

- Yes.

**Recreational fishing opportunities**

**1. Where do you feel there are recreational fishing opportunities?**

- Port Credit has potential for new recreational fishing spaces.



- Along the Port Credit shoreline people are fighting for space to cast their lines. Fighting for space is taking the fun out of fishing.
- There should be more open spaces for fishing by the Port Credit pier. This is a busy spot and will encourage people to join the angling community.
- There is one little spot in PC where 40 people are trying to fish. By the pier, there should be more large spaces for public fishing.

2. Are there any fishing spots that should be accessible but aren't?

- There should be more wheelchair access to the Credit River.

**Partnership opportunities**

1. Where do you feel there are partnership opportunities?

- We should be taking more advantage of the internet. CVC should have a forum where anglers can discuss their experiences fishing.
- Bass Masters should expand the work they have done with Lakefront Promenade.
- CVC should partner with Scouts Canada.
- Partnering with local schools would promote community hours and encourage a sense of ownership.
- We should work more closely with local aboriginal communities.

2. Is anyone interested in attending another one of these sessions?

- We should have these meetings every four months.
- I enjoyed the layout of the meeting.



## **Part B – Questions asked by anglers**

### **Cold water fisheries**

1. Is brown trout being stocked?

- No.

### **Warm water fisheries**

1. Where is the best electrofishing for small-mouths?

- Inside the LPP marina outer breakwall.

### **Invasive species**

1. At Rattray Marsh carp really like the extra sediment. Would more wetlands mean increased carp populations?

- It's more about preventing the carp from getting into the wetlands. There is potential to create carp barriers in new wetland areas.

### **Species at risk**

1. Is Lake Ontario stocking sturgeon?

- Not at this time.

2. Will walleye be stocked?

- This is something that we are looking into and gathering information on.

### **Wetlands**

1. What was planted in the marsh?





- Bebb's sedge, porcupine sedge, lake sedge, sypres-like sedge, fox sedge, wood-grass sedge, soft stem bulrush, Canada pondweed, Sago pondweed, Coontail/hornwort

**2. Are there currently wetlands in the Lakeview Waterfront Connection area?**

- The LWC footprint is entirely in Lake Ontario; however, there are small wetlands within the study area. These wetlands will not be impacted or modified through LWC.

**Recreational fishing opportunities**

**1. Is tax base the reasoning behind Inspiration Lakeview?**

- This question is for City of Mississauga to answer.

**2. Is there potential for new boat ramp installations?**

- This should be presented to the Urban Recreational Fishing Strategy group (MNR and TRCA).

**3. The piers should be open for fishing. Is this an option for Lakeview Waterfront Connection?**

- There is discussion of CVC taking possession of the eastern pier.

**Partnership opportunities**

**1. How is CVC partnering with aboriginal communities?**

- CVC has engaged aboriginal communities through the LOISS and LWC projects. The most active community has been the Mississaugas of New Credit. We are continuing to work with this group to identify and address common objectives.

**Other**

**1. Who constructed the shoal out front of Suncore Energy?**

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada has studied it before. I am not sure at this time who constructed it.
2. Will the next anglers meeting discuss future changes to the Port Credit marina?
- The topics for our next meeting have not been determined.
3. Is there discussion of CVC taking possession of the eastern pier?
- Yes.
4. I think the docs aren't being used as they should. Is there a way to enforce best practices?
- This is outside the jurisdiction of CVC. City by-laws may be the best avenue to address this concern.

## **Part C – Map Exercise Summary**

### **Green sticky (Wetland)**

- Possible wetland between or directly adjacent to splits
- Good wetland opportunity at outflow
- Sault St. Marie has berry plants near wetlands for birds/diverse habitats
- Berry bushes (raspberry trees) at Lakefront Promenade to attract smaller birds for photos and board walk with railing

### **Orange sticky (Invasive)**

- I have seen fewer lamprey marks the last few years
- Round gobies

### **Red sticky (Warm water species)**

- Bring the sturgeon to the Credit

- Crappie in the Credit
- Channel cats under the Credit bridge
- Small bullheads at marina
- Seeing large and small mouth bass
- Need more walleye
- Good at Cooksville Creek
- Red and green bass and pike
- Channel cats in Etobicoke

#### **Purple sticky (Species at risk)**

- Lake sturgeon very rare
- Walleye in shallow water

#### **Blue sticky**

- Stone hooking took away lake trout spawning areas
- There used to be lake trout spawning east of the Credit
- Lakefront Promenade to have another flow on the other end to enhance minnows and flow of water/oxygen
- Loss of heat source from hydro plant, less brown trout

#### **Yellow sticky (Recreational fishing opportunities)**

- Missed opportunity between splits
- More access needed at Port Credit
- Offshore humps, tire reef at Lakefront Promenade



- Piers should open for fishing
- Elevated structures for gobies to go under, bass substrate on top

### **West of Credit**

- Spring lake trout in St. Catherines

### **East of Credit**

- Walleye at Sam Smith
- Sam Smith has lots of bass

[If you have any questions regarding the material presented in this overview, please contact:  
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