



Autumn-Winter Journal – 2012 Prepared by: Al Frenette

Partnerships

Al Wilkins – July 2012

It was great to see members of the Ontario Steelheaders attend the Underwood "State of Lake Huron" meeting organized by the Lake Huron Fishing Club in May. It was also nice to have even more Steelheaders attend our member fish-fry in June. These events, of course, followed up from a cheque presentation to the Lake Huron Fishing Club from the Ontario Steelheaders in early May and a very successful day of stocking rainbow trout yearlings from our Kincardine Trout hatchery in April. Each year the Ontario Steelheaders and the Lake Huron Fishing Club become more closely entwined. This is a good thing! We have other sister clubs in Southwestern Ontario. The Bruce Penninsula Sportsmen's Association in Wiarton, Barrow Bay and District Sports Fishing Association in Lions Head, Sydenham Sportsmen's Association in Owen Sound, Georgian Triangle Anglers Association in Collingwood, Maitland Valley Anglers in Goderich, Bayfield Anglers in Bayfield, Bluewater Anglers in Sarnia, Thames River Anglers in London. I mention these specific clubs, although there are even more local organizations, because we are the ones that are actively involved with fish culture and fish stocking.



"It is absolutely essential that we all work together, share resources and information and present a common unified front against those forces that will try to undo all of the good fisheries enhancement and management work that we do. "

OS present a cheque for \$5000 to LHFC for fisheries enhancement

Some of this opposition comes from government personnel that are ill-informed, misguided or resentful. Some of the obstructiveness comes from other groups with their own agendas. At one time the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters had the mandate to unify various sportsmen's organizations such as ours but unfortunately a change in their internal policies has made them exclusionary instead of inclusive. It is up to us to band together. We have the same passion for the sport of fishing, the same respect for the resource, the same concern about the future of the sport for our children, the same willingness to commit our time and energy. While it is not necessary for us to agree on everything, our similarities vastly outnumber our differences.

Al Wilkins

Past President Lake Huron Fishing Club



P.O. BOX 604 BRANTFORD, ONTARIO N3T 5P9

Improving Access and Habitat for Migratory Rainbow Trout.

Membership Application Form

Address					
City		Province	Post	al Code	
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	I wish to opt out of	^r receiving newslet	ters and	other comm	unications by mail (p
copy). I p	prefer to receive con	nmunications by E	-mail only	y	
	Please Circle t	the Type of Members	hip Requir	red Below:	
Regular :	L Year = \$25.00 R	Regular 3 Year = \$60	.00	Family 1 Year	= \$30.00
Junior 1	Year (16 years or und	er) = 10.00 Senic	or 1 Year (age 65 and ov	/er) = \$20.00
List all	Names for Family Me	mbership		New	Renew
NOTE: For Fam	ily Membership, all cor				n first named above.
	<u>I am</u>	<u>n interested in the</u>	following	<u>I:</u>	
Stream Rehahilit	ation Egg Colle	ction/Adult Transfer	Smo	olt Release	_ Hatchery Work
			Other		
	r WorkNews a	nd Media Work			

Please allow 3 weeks from time of receipt of this application, for mailing of Membership Cards, crests and decals.

www.ontariosteelheaders.ca

From The President

Well folks it's that time of year for putting out another newsletter. Time has flown by and who'd believe it's been two years since the current board of Directors were voted in. A lot has changed and the Board has really done an amazing job of getting the club back on its feet. Out of that work, we hastily drafted a constitution only to discover that it needs some fine tuning, so it is our next goal to complete that fine tuning in a timely manner.

The elections that were to take place this fall will have to be postponed. We hope this doesn't discourage those of you who may have wanted to take the reins and contribute to the OS, but the board felt strongly and unanimously, that with a little more time, the transition will be much smoother for our successors once this constitution and many other projects are complete. So please, be patient and we will work even harder to get things in order so we aren't handing the "new crew" a bunch of half-finished projects and unfinished business. Remember, just 2 short years ago, this organization was in peril and grave disorder. We've come a long way in 2 years, but for us folks with jobs and lives outside the Steelheaders, 2 years as it turns out; simply wasn't enough time to sort our affairs properly. In the meantime, don't be shy! The Directors need help, and it's a great way to show genuine interest to the voting members for when the time comes... There's lots of work to go around, so don't be afraid to step up.

The current low water conditions are not helping our adult fall transfer efforts as we've only been able to move 47 adults to date. We still have time, and hope Mother Nature comes through with some much needed rain.

The low water conditions are hurting us all over as there was no water coming through the fishway at Walkerton and nothing at Maple hill until mid-October. We've had reports that fish were trying to get through the breach in the Traux Dam in Walkerton but this is no easy task for them and most get blown back but they keep trying!

I'm happy to report that both the LHFC and MNR (Chatsworth) hatcheries are telling us that our little guys are doing well and LHFC has indicated that as soon as their Browns are planted the Rainbows will be moved to the larger tanks and then we'll really start to see them take off ...currently they are about 2-3 inches.

The LHFC has recently had their election for a new BOD's so on behalf of the OS BOD's please welcome them and wish them all great success in their endeavors: Brian Garnet (President), Mike Hahn (VP), Mike Blumhagen (Treasurer), Dave Armstrong (Secretary), Harold Cowan (Director), Kyle Watson (Director), Robert Greason (Director), Carmen Gazel (Director), Norm Dobson (Director) and Todd Devries (Director)

Also, the OS wishes to send a well-deserved thank you, to Past President Al Wilkins for all his work over the last number of years not only with the OS's current BOD's but all those previously.

Job well done Al! You should be extremely proud of what you helped create, and with continued cooperation between the OS, the LHFC and MNR it will continue for years to come.

This year, between what LHFC and the Chatsworth hatcheries are raising the OS should be able to plant almost 80,000 yearling Rainbow Trout in the spring of 2013.

Keep in mind that this early-winter we'll need volunteers again to clip our little guys; we will put out a quick reminder in Feb with dates and location.

As some of you may have noticed, there are some new signs along the banks of the Saugeen regarding poaching, over limits etc. The OS has put these as a reminder that there are limits and rules and everyone must abide by them. The MNR has shown that they are taking our request for a bigger presence seriously and tell us that this will be occurring more often. Please make sure that you carry your valid fishing license with you so that when you're asked for it you have it with you. I've seen a number of cases when asked people said "oh it's in my vehicle or trailer" and the CO would either walk with the person to where it is or wait for them to return and this only slows down the CO from making his tour of the river so to help them do their job **keep your license on you when your fishing**.

We recently lost another friend of the river with the passing of Jim (Mac) McIntyre. Jim was a lifelong friend of Rod Jones and Keith Berkeley who left us not that long ago, Mac and Keith both helped over the years with everything from the original egg boxes to adult transfers. Mac and Keith will be missed just like the other friends of the River who passed before them.

One other thing we would like to mention if you see garbage please take the time to pick it up and drop it in the bin on your way out. We recently had a Scout troop come in and do a great job of cleaning up not only the garbage along the banks but also the limbs and pieces of wood left after the SVCA came and cut some trees that had died and were presenting a potential safety hazard. So a big thank you goes out to 20th Faith Brant Scout Troop for a job well done you'll see some pictures and an article in this newsletter.

In closing please keep in mind that if you have any suggestions, ideas or comments please feel free to come forward with any of these to any one of the BOD or myself and as mentioned before we will address it to the best of our ability.

Karl H. Redin

President,

Hats off to everyone involved in transforming this fishery. Our achievements are made possible by "Teamwork in Action"

Fishway News

Jody Schiefley

As we all witnessed, spring came early to Grey & Bruce Counties, bringing with it some fabulous runs of rainbows. Unfortunately shortly after, we experienced very low water conditions occurring much earlier than 'normal'. Low flows left many fish stranded throughout the landscape with the combined effect of significantly less nursery habitat available to the year class of 2012.

On the brighter side, in early June MNR Fish & Wildlife Technician Dustin Veenhof placed Temperature loggers at 4 different locations on the Beatty Saugeen (Concession 12, 14 + 16 and below the dam at Orchardville). Loggers record and store temperature readings every hour.

On average, temperatures remained below 20C, while on a couple of occasions the temperature did creep up to 25 or 26C. Rainbow trout temperature range is 12-20C, with 26C being fatal. Some rainbows can locate refuge in deep pools, cold tributaries or springs somewhere in the river during the hottest days. This is typical for a lot of local cold/cool water systems, and although it may not be perfect, it is still possible for them to thrive in this river system. Fish can still survive 'out of temperature' for a period of time but development, size and weight is directly affected.

For the most part these temperatures suggest the main Beatty Saugeen River is suitable for brown trout and even better for rainbows. **Remember this in the context of one very hot summer with very low flows, these results are very encouraging!** As with all fish species, environmental factors play a huge roll in annual recruitment.



The Good:

Low water levels also allowed the completion of phase 2 of Maple Hill fishway. Although rainbows did navigate this fishway in the spring, recent improvements should increase effectiveness. The current stop logs allow for adjustment of water heights through-out the fishway. Once observations are complete and fine tuning occurs, concrete will replace hemlock stop logs.

MNR is still on course for the placement of temporary cameras on the Walkerton and Maple Hill fishways to monitor next spring's migration.

Early indicators suggest more exceptional angler opportunity on the Saugeen this fall! Enjoy!

JODY SCHEIFLEY FISH & WILDLIFE TECHNICAL SPECIALIST MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OWEN SOUND





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Saugeen Steelhead Runs Were Booming!

Darryl Choronzey

I had to pity poor Pete Gilles and his partner standing and struggling a dozen feet below me in the trap at Denny's Dam. They were both in almost waist deep water with roughly five hundred excited steelhead, splashing and thrashing around them. It was obvious that the Saugeen steelhead run was booming and that all the hard work carried out by the members of the Ontario Steelheaders and the Lake Huron Fishing Club was paying off in a big, big way.

So big in fact, it's quite possible the Saugeen River just might be classed as having one of the biggest, if not the biggest runs of steelhead anywhere on the continent.

It hasn't been an easy project to carry out. It takes work and then more work. Matter of fact, the dedicated members of both clubs have been collectively working their asses off for more than the last eight years to bring this program to fruition. These boys and girls don't work a day or two or a month or two, but right around the calendar. That's 365 days of the year and often under the worst of conditions.

Let's look at last autumn for example. First, the members of both clubs combined efforts to man the trap at Denny's to collect **500** big, brawny adult steelhead for the transfer to the prime spawning grounds of the Beatty Saugeen. Why does it seem these fish almost always have to make their appearance when the temperature is freezing and the skies are their wettest? Trust me, it's not easy to handle a hundred or more fish in a lift. Then there's the cost of hauling those fish tankers back and forth numerous times a day from Southampton to Hanover. Oh, and don't forget the wear and tear on the trucks that do the hauling and the burnt up transmissions that go with that wear and tear.





Over the winter, when others may be out ice fishing, the members of the Lake Huron Fishing Club and Ontario Steelheaders can be found back in the Kincardine Fish Hatchery clipping the dorsal fins off **50,000** or **60,000** steelhead fingerlings that have to be identified before spring stocking can commence. In the winter of 2011/2012 we increased the clipping program just a little. Thanks to a pre-arranged agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Steelheaders, the club was allowed to obtain additional eggs and a one-time stocking of **65,000** advanced fall fingerlings was allowed. The Lake Huron Fishing Club raised them and the members of both clubs did a hell of a lot more clipping over at the LHFC's Port Elgin fish hatchery.

Then spring arrives and the climbing up and down in the trap, the netting and the lifting and trailering starts all over again. This time around, the target was set at **1,000** adults and we accomplished that number in three and a half days.

I've already mentioned Pete and his partner surrounded by **500** big fish. Well that happened back in March of this spring and the trap was only down in the water for a little over an hour. Over a four day period club members would lower the fish trap only three times a day for one hour intervals. Each of those lifts, on average, would capture more than **400** adult rainbows. On each of those lifts we generally had three trucks and fish tankers ready to transport approximately **130** adults upriver to the Beatty. As we made the convoy upstream to the Beatty, Grant McAlpine and his crew were still left to sample approximately **250-300** remaining fish for sex, ripeness and missing fin clips.

Now think on this real hard. We would only put that trap down for 3 hours a day and average more than 400 fish in each of three lifts. That means the trap was out and the fish were on swim-through for more than 20 hours a day. That run ran strong for almost three weeks. Do your math. That is one hell of a lot of fish that swam up out of that trap and all the way to Hanover.

It's not just moving adults that this program is all about. We raise approximately **50,000 to 60,000** of the finest looking 8 inch plus sized yearling steelhead smolts **every year**. That's one hell of a lot of loving babysitting that is carried out by the members of the Lake Huron Fishing Club. Remember again, that we added those **65,000** advanced fall fingerlings to the hatchery count as well.

To get those fish raised over at Kincardine, both clubs also had to strip and fertilize a lot of unhappy and aggravated adult steelhead to obtain a total of almost **200,000** eggs and a great deal of milt to put in the hatchery in the first place.

It may seem like a lot of fun, but it's not...it's damn hard work. My hat goes off to those members of both the Ontario Steelheaders and Lake Huron Fishing Club that carry out that damn hard work



Proposed Changes Get a Big Thumbs Down

Darryl Choronzey

Rumours, grumbles and a whole lot of bull crap usually escapes up from the river and travels across the phone lines to our President, members of the Board Of Directors, the Ministry of Natural Resources and eventually to my office. Over the course of a year we hear a lot and discuss a lot. We agree...most of the time. Sometimes we disagree. If I have a problem or a concern, I take it to Karl and he takes it to the directors.

About this time last year I expressed a concern about people submitting material to the Steelheaders newsletter to push their own personal causes or for that matter their businesses or other financial interests. No matter where you go, how hard you work or what you achieve, there are going to be armchair critics that want to give advice or criticism and exploit your work. These same critics for the most part, have usually done nothing for the fishery; seldom, or never giving labour or financial support to our causes.

A few weeks ago, word filtered back to me that a meeting was being planned to discuss fisheries management for the Saugeen River. Interestingly enough, it was apparent that the Ontario Steelheaders and Lake Huron Fishing Club seemed to be the last to hear about such a meeting. In fact, we weren't even on the list of those expected to be present at the meeting. After a number of contacts with the Municipality of Brockton, the Ministry of Natural Resources, our president Karl Redin, our Directors, Mike Hahn Vice President of the Lake Huron Fishing Club and other experienced 'dedicated' volunteers that have worked on our programs over the years, the Ontario Steelheaders have made the following recommendations concerning the Saugeen River.

1# No changes whatsoever to present sanctuaries and seasons for steelhead (rainbow trout)

2# No changes to daily or possession limits to steelhead (rainbow trout)

3# No implementation of catch and releases zones on the Saugeen River

4# No implementation of Fly Fishing Only zones on the Saugeen River

The recommendations were presented to Richard Radford, Chief Administrative Manager of the Municipality of Brockton and those who were expected to attend the meeting. I also have to note that our recommendations were fully supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources.



It didn't surprise me that most, if in fact any of those originally planning to attend the meeting had ever taken part in our fish transfers, egg taking, fishway improvements or hatchery operations...Where were they when we were freezing in the trap?.. Or building fishways? Or working in a hatchery?



Jessie James and His Gang Are Back!

Darryl Choronzey

Jeez, autumn! A little rain, a little cold weather and it was predictable that the rainbows would be running the Saugeen. As expected, Jessie James and his gang were also back, prowling along the banks of the Saugeen.

Yes I know, Jessie James and his gang have all been dead and buried for more than a hundred years. Still, I like to refer to these present day guys as the James Gang. It seems fitting to me. Both groups broke the law. The guys now buried stole from banks. The guys now living steal from our fishery, but still walk the banks. Really, they're still nothing more than poachers.

A few years back poachers could be referred to as rippers and runners. They'd rip the fish up and run away with their spoils. Not to say that some aren't still around. It's obvious today though that poaching is a little more refined and so are the outlaws. Even with long rods, light lines and float reels some of these clowns can really put a dent in our fishery, especially on the Saugeen. Our biggest problem on this river is the taking of more than the limit.

Tell me you haven't seen it. Some of these jerks will go down to the river, make a few casts and fill out their limit. They may go home and drop off their catch. Some will head back to their trailer, chill the fish in a cooler and have a beer and a nap. A few might just head back to the trunk of their car and stash their catch in a blanket. Still, they head back to river to start all over again. Hell, it has gotten so sophisticated that last autumn on the Saugeen some of the boys from Metro even had their girlfriends ferrying coolers of fish back and forth from Bruce County to the city! You have to admit, these guys are real outlaws.



Just about everyone on the river is well aware of what is taking place and who the outlaws are. Trust me, Karl hears complaints, the Directors hear complaints. Hell, I can sit in my office down on Lake Erie and I get phone complaints almost daily. There's no denying poaching and poachers are running rampant. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and especially the enforcement branch are understaffed and overworked. Karl and I have both been in constant communications the supervisors and our local conservation officers. A crackdown has been promised and is

presently underway.These guys (right) didn't dedicate a lifetime to this fishery to see it poached!



Now here's what you can do. Instead of bitching and complaining about poachers, report these outlaws. If you witness infractions, contact the **Ministry of Natural Resources at 1-877-TIPS-MNR.....1-877-847-7667.** You might even want to take a picture of these clowns carrying out their dirty deeds. A picture of their car and even a license plate photo helps as well.

Again, the Ministry of Natural Resources has promised us a more active presence on the Saugeen this year. Don't let these people spoil our fishery. **Down with the Outlaws!**



The Bucket List

Rod Jones

This summer I was very fortunate to get a call to help complete my bucket list....British Columbia fishing! I was off! ...and boy was I impressed with my travelling partner! He set up the whole trip, and all the travel arrangements. I would have had a hell of a time navigating through the ridiculously huge airports in Toronto and Vancouver. My friend also made arrangements for a side trip to visit his friends at Lund on the mainland; another educational experience. We went to his friends' seafood farm that raises scallops, mussels and oysters. After picking up the choice eating, we went out in another boat and set traps for prawns and crabs. It was the first time I saw anything like that. The experience was great and the catch was our meal. It was awesome, to meet so many new friends and experience their different lifestyles.

The next day we headed for the Island. A couple of ferry rides and some driving brought us to Kyuquot Sound Lodge. Soon after our arrival, we were off with owner Matt Guiguet to our first fishing destination about ten minutes from the Lodge. Down went the baits! It was ridiculous how fast the rods went off. You'd just sit down and off would go another! This went on each day with different guides and **lots of fish**! We could only keep 4 Chinook and 8 Coho, and the Coho had to be clipped to keep. We likely caught 150 or more but all were wild so had to go back. We also went jigging but after 40 minutes I gave up. Ughhh... It was all work! In that 40 minutes we landed 2 mid-sized halibut, 2 ling cod, 2 red snapper and about 6 or 7 rock fish. UN-REAL! Fishing like this was hard work!



Thanks to everyone in the Lodge, from owners, cooks, guides and my favorite guide and friend that helped me through all the obstacles and all the fun. Thanks Darryl "the Cronz!" It was a great time. Two more things on my bucket list.... Want to go?

Rod Jones

...Cronzy's reply:

"It was fun helping you fill out your Bucket List you Old Fart. It's just too bad you left out a few of the fun things that took place out on the coast. I guess what happens in B.C. stays in B.C., but the combination of fish, scenery and that special B.C. medication sure kept you on your toes and in action the entire trip. As for helping you continue on with filling out that list, give me about six months. Since that last outing I'm whipped! A kid like me has a hard time keeping up with an Old Fart like you."....

Fish Passage Data and Counts

LOCATION: Denny's Dam Fishway, Saugeen River, Ontario

Current conditions: (Oct 24 2012) Rainbow Trout and Salmon migration - High Turbidity Fish Activity Index: Medium

Date	Total Fish Passed	Chinook Salmon Passed	Rainbow Trout Passed	Peak Time	Peak Pass Rate (Fish /hr)	Peak Pass Rate (Salmonids /hr)	Water Temp (°C)
	164±0	80±0	83±0	15:00	44±0	44±0	-
10/6	44±0	11±0	33±0	10:00	12±0	12±0	-
10/7	54±0	18±0	34±0	19:00	9±0	9±0	-
10/8	28±0	8±0	20±0	16:00	9±0	9±0	-
10/9	15±0	1±0	14±0	15:00	8±0	8±0	-
10/10	29±0	10±0	19±0	19:00	5±0	5±0	-
10/11	23±0	2±0	20±0	12:00	4±0	4±0	8.8
10/12	58±1	5±0	53±1	11:00	13±0	13±0	7.7
10/5	24±0	12±0	15±0	14:00	4±0	4±0	8.9
10/14	0±0	0±0	0±0	n/a	0±0	0±0	12.9
10/15	89±0	37±0	51±0	n/a	0±0	0±0	11.0
10/16	15±0	4±0	11±0	16:00	2±0	2±0	10.0
10/17	8±0	5±0	2±0	16:00	3±0	3±0	9.9
10/18	109±5	15±0	94±5	7:00	13±0	13±0	11.2
10/19	110±9	22±2	84±7	1:00	13±0	13±0	10.5
10/20	0±0	0±0	0±0	n/a	0±0	0±0	10.8
10/21	44±2	8±0	36±2	17:00	25±1	25±1	10.4
10/22	115±0	15±0	100±0	15:00	19±0	19±0	9.8
10/23	111±0	4±0	107±0	n/a	0±0	0±0	10.0
10/24							11.2
Total:	925±17	212±2	676±15				

NOTE: Node 11 fully functional on October 11 after power disruption



HOW TO FISH TROUTBEADS?



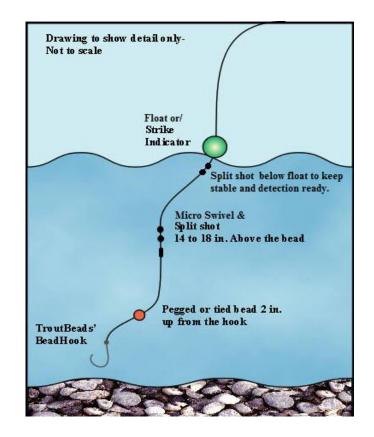
Article by: Jim Maragos-centerpinangling.com Special thanks: Cameron Howthorne-troutbeads.com

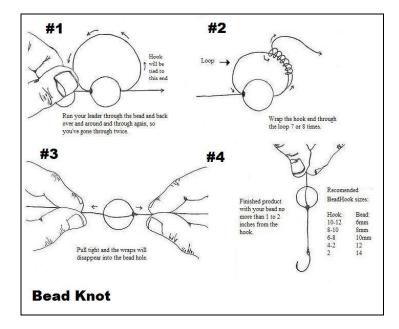
Troutbeads are an excellent bait when targeting migratory Steelhead. Although they have been around for years, this type of bead (rigged tandem bead-to-hook) has been traced back to the 60's and perhaps earlier in the United States. With their increased popularity to produce fish throughout their Alaska and the West Coast origin, they are now going main stream in and are gaining popularity in parts of the Great Lakes Regions with the highest demand presence in Up State New York, USA. As many Ontarians Steelheading across the border, and the power of online media and forums, Ttroutbeads are now quickly gaining popularity in our local rivers, yielding many fish to the bank and at times may out-fish roe.

Since Steelhead and Salmon naturally lay their eggs in Rivers, beads offer an excellent way to imitate one of these single eggs being swept by the current down stream to an eagerly-awaiting steelhead looking for a meal. Beads may also benefit as being the next best alternative bait to natural eggs gained by one having to harvest steelhead and further dampening the ever-depleting numbers in our local rivers.

There is an abundance of different sizes and colors; however we will feature here the Troutbeads.com brand as one of the most popular main stream bead. Made from high density plastic, these beads offer the best quality and finishes, known under the trademarks Troutbeads, Mottled, Blooddot and Glowbeadz. You can find these in most Ontario tackle shops specializing in steelhead float fishing tackle ranging in price from \$2.25 to \$4.00 Pkg. To make your selection easy, some popular-best sellers are the Egg yolk, Caramel roe, Orange clear, Peach fuzz, Chartreuse Pearl, Cheese Pearl, Cotton Candy just to name a few.

A good way to start fishing beads is to simply drift them below your float just like any other artificial or organic bait. Drifting them in faster current seemed to work best for the beads where steelhead may be holding behind boulders and undercuts waiting as it drifts by. You can use the smaller 6 or 8mm size with smaller hooks during cold winter conditions when steelhead are sluggish, not as active and their feeding somewhat slows, looking for smaller size bait. Come Fall and Spring when water levels are up and fish are actively moving in warmer water, they start looking for big meals and you can move up to 10-12mm beads with larger hooks, using bright colors for increased presentation and visibility to the fish. This is not a rule however, and at times any bead will work well and when a particular bead size or color may be thought not be the best selection you may quickly realize it was the best producer that particular day ... so it's a good idea to have a good selection at all time in your vest, as it pays to try different colors in a day's fishing.





There are several ways to keep the bead stationary on the line. Some fishermen use a method called "Pegging" by first passing your leader through the bead hole and jamming the point of a toothpick inside the bead hole keeping it on the line where you wanted, and then tying your hook usually about 1 to 2 inches below the bead for best-natural presentation. Another method is to use a "Bead-Knot" and begin by passing your leader through the bead hole then coming around and passing it through again. Once through, you then wrap the line around the loop of the line 7-8 times and pull straight. This causes the wraps to disappear into the bead hole and then finish off by tying your hook below the bead.

Both methods seem to work fine, some thinning may be required to the toothpick to get it deep, as it may sometimes come loose due to limited tension on the line or if too-much tension it's possible you could damage the line. The Bead-Knot also works fine. Care should be taken not to curl when pulling the wraps tight by lobbing the knot.

A new bead rigging tool introduced recently is based on the same concept using a toothpick. The pick itself though is made of flexible silicone called "PEG-IT" available from Top Brass Tackle and a similar product from troutbeads.com. The Peg-It is probably the easiest way to peg your bead quickly and easy, consisting of a thin-tapered peg, about 11/2" long looks just like a toothpick. Its key-feature is its elasticity ...that once you pass your line or leader through the bead and then push the narrow end of the peg-it into the bead hole until it sticks out the other end, you then pull it to stretch and jam the peg in the bead hole then clip the excess off at top and bottom sides of the bead keeping the bead securely wherever you want it.

The soft silicone peg will not damage the line and the bead can be moved up and down the line easily, yet hold firm. The Peg-It will also work for other type beads with a larger bore diameter to a maximum of about 2mm.



Packed in 15 or 50 count with a retail price range of \$2.95-\$5.95 available now in most specialty tackle shops, including in our pro-shop using this link http://www.centerpinangling.com/steelhead-flies.html#troutbeads See you in the river & happy fishing!



<u>Denny's Park Project Report</u>

Backgrounder: Denny's Dam Conservation Area property was once privately owned. At the time of sale, the owners wanted the land to be maintained for public access to the river, as a result of donations from sportsmen and other funding; The SVCA acquired the land and kept it open to the public. In 1996 The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority announced that Denny's Dam Conservation Area would be closed to the public due to financial constraints. The possibility existed that the property may even be sold.

The Ontario Steelheaders, consistent with its mandate, approached the Authority with an offer to lease the Park and comanage it in order to ensure continuing access for all resource users. This resulted in a significant financial commitment to the Ontario Steelheaders. Monies generated by our activities at Denny's Park, are from time to time earmarked for park improvements and fisheries enhancement projects. Our committee works diligently to collect funds, and to run the park efficiently, in order to make these ventures possible. The Ontario Steelheaders would like to thank everyone for their timely payments which make these and other improvements to our park and our fishery possible. Thank you! It's your park! Use it, respect it, and support it! – **Enjoy your stay!**

Scouts return to Denny's!

6 Scouts, 1 Venturer and 3 Leaders travelled from Brantford in September to Denny's Dam Park as part of their reward camp for a successful past Scouting year. To add to their excitement of this camp, the youth were informed of a bear in camp just the week before arriving. Yikes! The weather man challenged their camping skills, but thanks to the Rod Jones Pavilion, the Troop stayed out of the wind and rain.

Five and half hours were spent stacking wood and cleaning up from the trees that were taken down by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

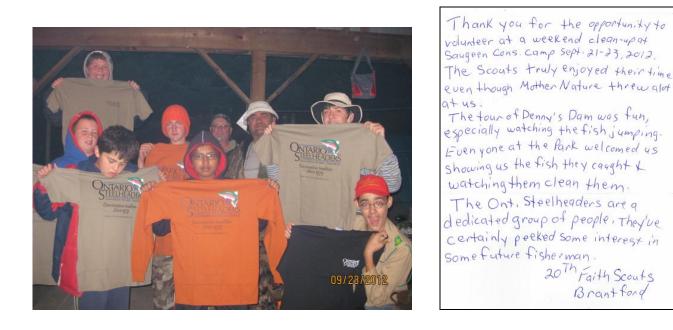


Seven bags of garbage were collected from along the river's edge and throughout the park.

Thanks also to Steve Carvell who gave an informative tour of the Lake Huron Fishing Club Hatchery in Kindardine. The Scouts saw different stages from egg to fry of Brown and Rainbow Trout. The Brown Trout were to be released this fall. We were advised the Rainbows would be held back for a spring release in 2013.



Conservation is part of the Scout badge work and this was also their good deed to give back. Karl Redin explained at Denny's Dam how the fish are handled and transported in the tankers. We'd like to thank the Steelheaders for giving these young people the opportunity to see first-hand, the great work the Steelheaders do for the park and the fishery.



..."I stopped in this week at Denny's.... just a note to say that the site looks great!...Thanks! Please let your volunteers know that we do appreciate how well the site is maintained and probably do not say it often enough."

Thanks

Al Leach, BSc Manager of Lands Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority



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From Madeline's Membership Desk

We are coming up to our two year anniversary since the current BOD was established and our membership roster continues to grow and presently we are well over 190 members. Membership renewals and new sign-ups were held at the Fall Derby. The Spring Derby of 2012 was also a huge success.

I hate to beat an old horse (so to say) but there truly is 'Power in Numbers'. The Ontario Steelheaders success is directly related to the strength of its membership, so I urge you all to continue to support our efforts by renewing your membership. I can assure you all that, your Board of Directors has been working diligently over the past two years to restore this organization to what it once was Your membership support has, and will continue to make this work possible.

Please keep in mind that all membership dollars received are 100% directed to the Ontario Steelheaders and their goals and objectives. The money received from the actual membership fees is relatively small compared to the donations, grants and bursaries from businesses, government organizations and other community groups. However, to be considered relevant by many of these organizations it is beneficial for our organization to show a wealth of members within its membership roster. The power is in the numbers, as it demonstrates to these various organizations that we have a committed (and large) group of people who continue to support our objectives and efforts through a spirit of volunteerism

On a somber note, it is with great sadness to report the passing of one of our long standing members, Mr. Jim McIntyre (Mac). Mac passed away suddenly in June. On behalf of the Ontario Steelheaders, I express our condolences to his family and friends.

Also with a heavy heart, I report the passing of another long time Ontario Steelheaders member, Mr. Keith Berkley. Keith succumbed to cancer after a courageous fight. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Munro organized the procurement of a granite memorial and many of our members donated money to help cover the cost. Again on behalf of the Ontario Steelheaders we wish to express our condolences to Keith's friends and family for their loss.

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. You should note that the most recent membership application form provided an option for those of you who wish to opt out of receiving mail through Canada Post and only receive email communications. I realize that for some of our members continue to depend on receiving our communications through Canada Post and this will continue. However for those of you who have selected to opt out and receive email communications only, I thank you, as this does reduce our overall operating costs. However, regardless of how you wish to receive your communications please ensure that I have received your most up to date contact information.

I continue to ask for any and all of your input regarding any suggestions that you may have, as this is YOUR organization and your input is valued. Please send your comments to: membership@ontariosteelheaders.ca, or include them with your membership renewal.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the fall derby on October 13, 2012. 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 feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions regarding your membership or club communications, and I would be only too happy to assist.

Madeline Walker Membership Director Ontario Steelheaders membership@ontariosteelheaders.ca





TREASURER'S REPORT

Well it's fall and once again we are no doubt, looking at another season of excellent fishing .With the changing of the leaves, the cooler temperatures and some rain, I am sure everyone is chomping at the bit in anticipation of the fishing opportunities that are quickly coming our way. I have already witnessed great fishing on our beautiful Saugeen, despite the recent low water levels. A weeks' vacation is coming up for us and we are looking forward to plying her waters.

On to other matters,... Any organization, group or club is only as solid as the membership itself. We have been fortunate in this regard as our members have stepped forward time and time again. For your labour, time given and financial donations I would like to thank you for all your concerted efforts. Our financial situation is very good. The collective funds of the Ontario Steelheaders lay in wait to feed our 'babies' or any other necessity that could arise.

Below you will see a list of people and organizations who have befriended the Ontario Steelheaders. Thank you all for your generosity:

Joseph Lawson **Brian Branton** Paula Jones Scott Graham The Sauble and Area Men's Club Ernie Jantzen Roberto Rossi **Employees of Crown Verity** Jolanta Strzelczyk Pete and Rosemary Munro Kevin Chaffe Debbie Zettler Tom Judge The Lake Huron Fishing Club The crew at the dam **Brian Hambly**



And special thanks to the park gang Carol, Doug, Gary, Pete, Bob and Derek and Ivan

I apologize if I have missed anyone, be it known all your efforts are appreciated. Once again thank you for all that has been accomplished.

Harold Curtis

Treasurer, Ontario Steelheaders

FEED THE FISH!!!

Chances are you've been approached by one of our members with draw tickets for prizes, 50/50's, merchandise and so on. The proceeds from these draws go directly to fund the hatchery operations and are used to purchase fish feed, pay for electricity and other expenses. Many thanks, to the folks who have been working hard to sell the tickets and raise funds. This work, and your generosity, is critical to the enhancement of this fishery, and a vital lifeline to the fish!

Please support these and other very important fundraising activities now and in the future!

A Last Minute Update ...and a Couple of Personal Opinions



Boy oh boy have we made something spectacular out of the old Saugeen River. When weather and water come together we've changed and improved the steelhead run into one of the finest if not the finest steelhead stream on this continent. In my humble opinion the runs are well over 50,000 fish when you combine autumn and spring. How do I know? I do my math and observe the fishways and upstream 'tribs' more than most. Again, we were averaging more than 300 fish in a lift with the trap down for just a little more than an hour. Think about the long term, when that trap is out of the water r 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for weeks at a time. And those fish are running non-stop from mid-September all the way around the calendar til late April, or even mid-May. Think of the total number of fish that are caught daily behind Steelheaders Park from mid-September til late May. The returns have been outstanding!

You folks, the hard working volunteers from both clubs, the Lake Huron Fishing Club and the Ontario Steelheaders have to be congratulated. In my mind, you have created a miracle!



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The New Ontario Steelheaders/MNR Endeavour :

Darryl Choronzey

Anyway, here's a little last minute update. Back in June a couple of years ago, I sat with Shawn Carey, the area supervisor for Grey/Bruce, and Dave Reid the head biologist/manager of the upper lakes. Over a couple of beers (I had the brew, they had the diet cokes), I suggested that they could complement our program by raising a few fish of their own for our cause. I asked for the use of Saugeen adults only for egg and sperm use. I suggested 8 inch sized smolts only, and requested that all yearlings be stocked at Walkerton. I also asked that these fish be marked with an adipose only clip which would coincide with our regular program.

What the hell, it was a shot in the dark, but what could it hurt, a try is a try.

Surprisingly, the two bosses got back to me with an affirmative reply but with one condition. It couldn't start immediately, due to the fact they had to find a home in a crowded provincial hatchery. That was the reasoning for last year's late fall fingerling release of wild rainbow that the Lake Huron Fishing Club raised for the project. We seeded those 65,000 fish up into prime water in the Beatty late last November. The fish thrived in the new surrounds. We checked it.

This past spring we collected an additional 75,000 eggs, over and above our usual egg taking program. The adults were all tested for disease and eggs and survivors have been hatched and housed at Chatsworth Fish Culture Station since then. No disease or problems have hindered this program to date. The fish (probably stocked by our two clubs) will be released in March or April. It should also be noted that I approached the Lake Huron Fishing Club to make certain that this additional stocking will in no way alter our objectives, target numbers, and set locations presently used in our own program. These fish are an added bonus.

After discussion with Karl, a suggestion was made that the MNR might want to keep a thousand or so fish for a brood stock program of their own. At the present time MNR only utilizes a Ganaraska strain in their system, and haven't gone back to the wild for eons to update their genetics. My thinking is why not have two strains in the system?possibly our Saugeen/Chambers Creek strain that could again, possibly be used in the future for stocking some of the bigger systems on both the Huron and Georgian Bay sides.



The Steelheader/MNR endeavor means even better fishing



Right now, all is fine at Chatsworth and we should be looking forward to some great additional fish to be stocked at Walkerton come spring. Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources has really been a coup for both parties and possibly anglers across Ontario. For the first time in eons we now have a new strain of rainbow added to a government hatchery and program....CONGRATULATIONS!

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Now my Personal Concerns:

Darryl Choronzey

Now let me bitch just a little. Personally, I don't like last minute meetings concerning the Saugeen when the people responsible for the present success aren't called or possibly invited to the table. When word finally filtered out that a meeting to discuss changes to the fishery was about to take place I was a little concerned that a couple of foxes were trying to get into the hen house and I made a few phone calls with my concerns...again getting the go ahead from our President.

Our main concern is...why tinker with success? I met again with the MNR, Karl, the Lake Huron Fishing Club and some of the long time; old-timers who I believe know the river and know the fish; and I remembered a long time ago, I had a discussion with a very smart conservation officer who used to stress over and over again "why kill the cow before you take the milk?"

Simply put, we have almost year-round steelheading below Denny's Dam, except for a few months closure below the dam and the abutments. Below Walkerton, the river is open for an entire eight months from the Walkerton dam all the way to Lake Huron.

Remember that "you don't kill the cow, before you take the milk" warning? Like I said, we have created a miracle here, but this fishery still needs time to grow roots.

When I sat down with Rod Jones to formulate some ideas almost a decade ago, I said then that my goal was to get the steelhead firmly established in upriver coldwater tributaries such as the Beatty and others branching off from the South Saugeen. Natural reproduction will explode.

No matter what anyone says, the waters between Walkerton and Denny's Dam are not really suitable for natural reproduction. But, they do contain a million shallow water spawning areas. The waters are presently limited to only a few individuals with drift boats due to lack of suitable access points through farm lands. My major concern is that only a few individuals would profit from opening the river from January first until the regular opening at the end of April.....that is except the poachers that know most of those shallow water stretches.

Let's continue to leave the steelhead alone for that four month period while they attempt to make their way back to the Beatty and other upstream, prime coldwater tributaries. We've built and improved a number of new fishways for that purpose. We trailer 1500 adults every year up into the Beatty for just that purpose. We work in hatcheries for just that purpose. We freeze our asses off in cold water for just that purpose.....To keep making this the finest steelhead river on the continent. There's enough open season time for fantastic fishing on the Saugeen without killing the cow before we take the milk.....and besides, once those fish get on the beds, they've got sex on their mind, not food and even worse; that white coloured flesh isn't much good for eating.

Now we come to the subject of cameras. Bluntly put, I think it's a lot of money to place on an experiment. Seems they are putting four cameras on the system. One at Dennys, one at Walkerton, and two at Maple Hill; boy, could we use a little bit of that money for a few more of our projects I would like to see done first!

Personally I don't think the conditions will ever be right for the cameras to work successfully. Steelhead love to run when the water is high and muddy. Will the cameras work in muddy conditions? Will they count the proper numbers? Will they even see the fish? Will they even identify the fish?

I've been around a lot of fishways and a lot of cameras and I just don't think this will ever work on the Saugeen. I hope I'm wrong, because we sure could get a lot more work done with a little more money.

Talking about money???? We all need it, especially the Ontario Steelheaders and the Lake Huron Fishing Club. To be honest, I've met more with the Ministry of Natural Resources in the last couple of years than I have in the previous forty years. We are in for big problems folks. The Ministry of Natural Resources has even bigger problems. McGuinty is killing this ministry and in the long run it only hurts our future in the outdoors. **The Steelheaders and the Lake Huron Fishing Club require more and more funding every year.**

When I go down to Denny's to watch the guys climb into the cold trap, transfer adults and strip eggs under brutal conditions, it amazes me as I stare downstream and also watch a couple of hundred or even a thousand anglers every day drifting their floats. How many are members of the Lake Huron Fishing Club or the Ontario Steelheaders??? Not many! We need to recruit more members for both clubs. Hell, their success and enjoyment come from our work. When I get rumours coming in my back door, I wonder if these complainers or suggestion makers are members of either club or donating funding to these two clubs.

We are all getting older and we could certainly use the assistance of more young bloods. We need funding, so I'm hoping that those who are benefiting financially from our endeavours join in our labours or at least open up their pocketbooks. In my opinion every person that is benefiting from our fishing, should be supporting our fishery

Hell, I've had a brand new drift boat for the last past two years that hasn't even seen the water. Instead, I'm shutting this computer down and driving a couple hundred miles up the road like many of us do, to meet up with club members and start moving fish.



Unlike others, the drift boat is there, just no time to use it.



We work instead of complain



"Join the club and give us hand!"

Tribute to a friend of the Steelheaders

On October 13th, a large crowd of friends, relatives and supporters of the Ontario Steelheaders gathered at the look-out in Denny's park to honour long-time member Keith Berkeley. Karl Redin spoke of Keith as a dedicated member who was part of the "old Guard" in the Steelheaders. He spent time as a director back in the early days, and gave countless hours of his time to fisheries enhancement. A stone memorial is placed near the lookout point where Keith and his wife Penny spent many days watching over the river where Keith loved to fish. To some, he was a friend, a comrade, a lifelong partner. To all of us, he is an inspiration. Keith was kind, patient and the most giving person we knew.



Forever in our hearts. Rest easy friend.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who donated to the very moving tribute to Keith at the park. Keith would have been honoured to know that you cared so much for him. He had tears in his eyes when he read his last Steelheader Newsletter. He loved the park, the people, and the work on the fishery. He was proud to be a part of it all. I was moved."

Penny



Idle Thoughts for Idle Anglers

collected by Ron Plaskett

Ron, Bob and Dave were fishing in a boat when they ran out of bait. Ron got up and walked across the water to get some more bait. After two hours, they ran out of bait again and this time, Bob walked across the water to get some bait. After three hour of fishing they ran out of bait again and Dave said he would get the bait. So he stepped out of the boat and went straight to the bottom. Ron turned to Bob and asked "Should we have told him where the rocks were?"

When you go fishing and you catch something, that's good. If you are making love and you catch something, that's bad.

Q. What is the definition of 'live bait'? A. The biggest fish you will handle all day.

Q. What is the definition of a 'Fisherman's Thumb'? A. A temporary hook holder.

A young man and an older man were fishing on a pier. The young man started telling the older one that the night before he had caught a trout that was over 3 ½ feet long.

The older man replied, "Oh yeah, well I was here 2 nights ago and I hooked something huge. After a 30 minute fight, I finally got it to the surface and it was an old lantern and the thing was still lit."

The young man said, "You're lying. I can't believe that."

Then the older man said, "I'll tell you what, you knock a couple of feet off your trout and I'll blow out my lantern."

Old Dave was walking along a California beach when he came upon two men pulling another man ashore on the end of a rope. "That's what I like to see," mused old Dave, "A man helping out his fellow man." As he was walking away, one man remarked to the other, "Well, he sure doesn't know the first thing about shark fishing."

Maude shared this tidbit with her friend over a cup of tea: "I think the only reason my husband likes to go fishing so much is that it's the only time he hears someone tell him, "Wow, that's a big one!"

Ron had an awful day fishing on the lake, sitting in the blazing sun all day without catching a single fish. On his way home, he stopped at the supermarket and ordered four trout fillets. He told the fish salesman, "Pick four large ones out and then throw them at me, will you?"

"Why do you want me to throw them at you?"

"Because I want to tell my wife that I caught them."

"Okay, but I suggest that you take the orange roughy."

"Why's that?"

"Because your wife came in earlier today and said that if you came by, I should tell you to take the orange roughy. That's what she would like for supper tonight."

The only time a fisherman tells the truth is when he calls another fisherman a liar.

The great thing about fishing is that it gives you something to do while you are not doing anything.

The most awful thing you can say to another angler is: "That's a nice fish. May I use it for bait?"

It was a cold winter day. Old Dave walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line, and patiently waited for a bite.

He was there for almost an hour, without even a nibble, when a young boy walked out onto the ice and cut a hole in the ice next to him. The young boy dropped his fishing line in and a few minutes later pulled out a huge smallmouth bass. Old Dave couldn't believe his eyes but chalked it up to plain luck.

Shortly thereafter, the young boy pulled in another large catch. The young boy kept catching fish after fish. Finally, Old Dave couldn't take it any longer.

"Son," he said, "I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You've been here only a few minutes and have caught over a half dozen fish! How do you do it?" The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrarm."

"What was that?" Old Dave asked.

Again the boy responded, " Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrarm."

"Look," said Old Dave, "I can't understand a word you are saying."

The boy spat some bait into his hand and said... "You have to keep the worms warm."

"I didn't see you in church last Sunday, Thomas. I hear you were out playing football instead."

"That's just not true, Reverend. And I've got the fish to prove it!"

FUNDRAISERS

Supporter funding strong as ever!!

The storefront Supporter Decal Program is a real hit with tackle retailers, restaurants and other businesses. These supporting businesses donate 200 dollars towards our Fisheries Enhancement Fund. In return, the Ontario Steelheaders are supplying the stores and businesses with a storefront "Supporter" decal to display, as well as an advertisement spot in this newsletter. The funding generated from this project will go a long way to improve our fishery. Every member of the Ontario Steelheaders is encouraged to present the program to someone they know. **Please do your part and keep the program and our fishery moving forward.**



The license plate sized Supporter Decal can be seen on storefront windows across SW Ontario. "If you know of a business who would like to make a contribution, and advertise with us in this newsletter, please contact us at: webmaster@ontariosteelheaders.ca

Please thank our partners for their support !!

RODMAN- RIVERKEEPER Rod and Reel Draw Winner: Harold Curtis Congrats!!!

Ontario Steelheaders Rod & Reel Draw	Ontario Steelheaders Rod & Reel Draw			
Ticket # X#X#X#X	\$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00 - Limited ticket: Ticket #X#X#X#X			
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...Special thanks to Rob Marquette of Frogwater Reels and

Ernie Jantzen or **Rodman Custom Rods** for their donations!

The Ontario Steelheaders are one step closer to their goals thanks to your generosity!



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Ontario Steelheaders 2012 Annual Fall Steelhead Derby



Brian Hambley, Laurien Godin & Will Stewardson, Winners of Fall Derby 2012

Chairman's address:

Well folks, we had another successful derby for all those who braved the wind and rain. I would like to thank you all again. We had 84 entries (80 adults and 4 juniors) for this event.

The leaders are as follows -

First- Will Stewardson -	8.4
Second- Brian Hambly -	7.8
Third- Laurien Godin -	7.6

■ Catch and release went to Brian Watson -28.5"

■ Junior division goes to **Cory Munro** with 4.6.

Congratulations go out to all this year's winners. Don't forget we are all winners, good day of fishing, chatting with new and old friends and an excellent meal... What could be better I ask you!?

The Ontario Steelheaders would like to thank all those who donated prizes and time for our events:

Barry Westall - RedWing Tackle, Hammond Power Solutions, Joslin - Angling Outfitters, Ernie Jantzen - Rodman Custom Rods, Rob Marquette - Frogwater Reels, John Gratton – St Croix, and anyone else who we forgot. I would like to send a special Thanks to Mike, Dave and Brian for all the set-up and cooking. Without these people you wouldn't have been fed; and to Dar and Lori for handling the crowd for tickets, well done Ladies!

Thank you all for your continued support, it means a lot to us!

Dave Munro Social Events Director Ontario Steelheaders



Brian Watson – Catch & Release winner

Cory Munro – Top Junior!

Next Derby: Saturday May 4th 2013



Bring the kids!! Join us for a fun day on the river. Take in the sights and sounds of the Saugeen River and join us for **dinner** and a get together afterwards. Registration is available at Denny's Park. Look for the signs..!! Dinner will be served at the Rod Jones Pavilion, where we will have **draw-prizes**, **merchandise**, club **updates**, and the derby **prizes and trophies** will be awarded. Please join us for a great day of socializing with members, important information updates and a cozy campfire afterwards. Overnight camping and day use at Denny's Park is available for derby participants and their families. **Membership** applications are also

Entry fee: \$10.00 adults -- \$7.00 junior
 Everyone Welcome!
 Please observe all Ontario Fishing Regulations

Anyone wishing to donate prizes to the DERBY please see Dave or Dar Munro at Denny's Park, or call at home 519-651-8109. All Prizes Welcome!



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