

LAKE HURON Fishing Club



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Past President

Al Wilkins • fisheye@bmts.com

Annual Club Fish Fry

Our annual Club Fish Fry is June 8th at the Baie Du Dore boat launch. \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Attendees from sister clubs are considered members and only pay \$5.



Newsletter By Email

Receiving the newsletter by email is a great way for the club money to save postal fees. Please give it some thought. If you would like to view this month's newsletter to see if it will work, simply email us your request to: fish@bmts.com and we will add you to our list.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There has been a lot of activity in the last few weeks. Through the dedicated help of many of our volunteers some very important projects have been completed.

Under Al's guidance this year's trout have been released. This was a special event this year because in one of those dip nets our two millionth trout was scooped up and put into one of the trailers to be released somewhere into the Lake Huron Watershed. Thanks to Al, all the people who regularly volunteer at the hatcheries and to those who volunteered to help with the release.

On two separate weekends, volunteers put in some very productive hours to unstack, repair, and organize the docks. Under Norm Dobson's supervision the docks are once again in good repair and placed in the river for the season. The only down side to this is that not all the docks could be put in place due to water levels remaining below normal. Thanks to Norm for organizing this operation, to Carmen for arranging the repair material, and also to Brian Lang for the donated use of his Bobcat to move the docks into place. Also, thanks to all who gave their time to saw, hammer, and pull wrenches to finish this important part of our fund raising efforts.

This past Saturday the Derby guys did a fantastic job of running the fund raising BBQ at the Port Elgin Walmart. Thanks to Calvin for making this a well-organized

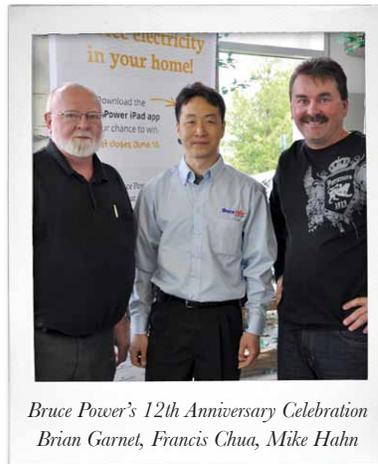
success, as well as Brian Lang on the barbecue, Harold Cowan on the onion chopper, and the whole group that showed up to make the work load light and the

day fun. Also, a special thanks to Walmart of Port Elgin for all their assistance to make this happen, and to Mike Hahn for making the executive decision to go fishing and send his daughters to help. I'm sure they worked harder than he would have!

At our last General Meeting we received a cheque for \$5,000 from the Ontario Steelheaders. I spoke with Karl Redin,

President of the Steelheaders, and was told by Karl that the cheque was their thanks and recognition of the LHFC for our effort in developing the Saugeen into a premier trout river. We also received a cheque from the Nuclear Waste Management Group for \$1500, so a thank you to them.

Of course, the big news is our newly formed partnership with Bruce Power. The evolution of this partnership began when Bruce Power was invited to donate to the Chantry Derby. This was an area that did not exactly fit the model of where they wished to invest, however, after some discussion they learned about our investment into Youth through the School Hatchery Program and also that we were involved in Stream Rehabilitation and Enhancement along with our recognition of the value of tree planting. They became interested and expressed a desire to



Bruce Power's 12th Anniversary Celebration
Brian Garnet, Francis Chua, Mike Hahn

cont'd → become supportive partners. We would like this partnership to be engaging and not merely a thank you letter sent upon receipt of a donation. Rather, Bruce Power will be involved with us on a more personal level. They have expressed an interest in attending a couple of our General Meetings a year so we will have the opportunity to show them first-hand what we have been able to accomplish as our projects evolve. On the other hand, because we as individuals have many boats on the lake, Bruce Power has asked if we would assist in keeping an eye on their monitoring devices that are placed in many locations on the water. They have asked that if we see a Monitor that appears damaged or obviously out of place, as in washed ashore, that we inform them of same. Also, they will have access to fish catch data to assist them in their effort to monitor any affect the facility may have on the lake. More information will be forthcoming as to exactly what information they need to monitor the health of the lake and its resources. It is my understanding that pamphlets will be distributed to describe how members can participate in this information share. The

first of these interactions took place at our last General Meeting. About 100 of our members and spouses were treated to a delicious home cooked turkey supper, compliments of Bruce Power. Three representatives of Bruce Power, Francis, Sheri-Lee, and Emily attended and spoke on our partnership and their interest in maintaining a healthy lake system. In conclusion, Francis presented us with a cheque for \$8,000 which along with the \$12,000 dollar cheque already received, is a total of \$20,000 for 2013. Francis also announced that Bruce Power will donate a further \$20,000 for 2014, and in addition \$20,000 in 2015 for a total of \$60,000 over 3 years at which time programs will be re-evaluated to determine future donations. Thank you Bruce Power, we look forward to a continuing partnership. This is an exciting time for the LHFC.

Don't forget to get your Derby tickets early. They are out at the usual outlets and online through PayPal. We need 100% ticket sales on the boat and trailer package donated by Tigwell Marine, so remember them as well, it would be a sweet prize to win!

Lastly, we need people to step up and

volunteer to take on positions on next year's Executive or run the risk of being nominated and coerced! Start thinking now of who you would like to nominate for the elections coming in September.

- Fish Fry, Saturday, June 8
- Next Executive Meeting June 20, 7pm at the Kincardine Airport
- Next General Meeting is July 11, 7pm in Underwood
- Derby Media Day is July 12
- Derby starts Saturday, July 27

Good Luck to all and wishing you safe boating

Respectfully,

Brian Garnet, LHFC President

President's Postscript

When I was writing the presidents message this month I forgot to mention Grant Mc Alpine and the crew that were involved in the fish lift and egg collection operation this spring. Grant reported large numbers of big healthy fish. I may be incorrect in some of these numbers but I believe a total of 2152 fish were lifted and 934 fish were given a ride up the river by truck and a total of 344000 eggs were collected for distribution to hatcheries and the MNR. Great job Grant and crew, thanks for another successful season.

TROUT HATCHERY UPDATE

The release of our yearling rainbows went extremely well due to overwhelming help from our club members and assistance of the Ontario Steelheaders. On Saturday April 27th, we transported approximately 50,000 rainbows to their new homes on the Saugeen River and its tributaries. These fish averaged 60 grams in weight or about seven inches in length. The other 8000 yearlings were released early the next week. Two hundred yearling rainbows were placed into the Chinook Hatchery headpond for the neighbourhood kids to fish. Sometime on Saturday, we released the twop millionth fish from the LHFC Kincardine Trout Hatchery. Is that a success story or what?!!

Our brown trout are doing great and really starting to put on weight and size. Health of these fish is excellent.

The hatch is in progress with our rainbow trout eggs and it looks like we will exceed our target numbers of fish again. Don't worry – none of these fish will go to waste.

As announced at our last meeting, we

have been lucky enough (thanks to the hard work of Mike Blumhagen) to receive a Trillium grant for some retrofits at our trout hatchery. This is to replace a few things that are just plain worn out after 20 years of operation. One big improvement that is going to happen, is the installation of a standby electrical generator for the hatchery. This will be a propane powered, automatic start, machine that will be big enough to run our largest water pump and air blower. This is going to make a world of difference to those volunteers who are on our emergency crew and may prevent serious injury to one or more of our responders. We have a few maintenance projects that I would like to get completed over the summer. If any Club member would like to lend a hand, I would appreciate the help.

Al Wilkins

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CHANTRY CHINOOK CLASSIC SALMON DERBY COMMITTEE JUNE UPDATE

By now, you may have seen the new 30th annual 98 the Beach Chantry Chinook Classic brochure. The brochure has now been mailed to 2011 and 2012 participants. The mailing did not include your personal record of fish entered in the 2012 Chantry Chinook Classic Salmon Derby, due to the amount of work involved. Thanks once again to Al and Joanne Wilkins for helping us getting the mailings out. A number of mailings were returned as a result of incomplete & incorrect addresses. So when you are filling out your Derby tickets, please give complete address including box numbers and postal code.

Derby tickets have been distributed to all the ticket outlets, along with posters and the derby brochures. For information on outlets, look in the brochure or visit our website. Take note that the ticket outlet in Stratford has closed. Please support our outlets and sponsors, as without them there would be no derby. Tickets are also available by completing the registration form in the brochure, sending your cheque as indicated, and visiting our website and purchasing online via PayPal.

The 30th Anniversary Chantry Chinook Classic Salmon Derby special boat draw sales are now underway. LHFC members who have sent in their sold tickets with funds are greatly appreciated. We certainly encourage those who have not yet sent in their tickets to do so to assist this fund raiser on behalf of your club. This package was donated by Tigwell Motor Sports, consisting of a 16ft Mirrocraft boat with a 15 hp-4stroke electric start motor on an EZEE-Tilt trailer. Retail value is \$8500. If anyone desires additional books of tickets contact Bob Greason at robertgreason@yahoo.com Tickets will be available at several locations in the future including Keady Market every Tuesday in July, Media Day July 12th, and at the weigh stations during the derby. All participants who purchase a derby entry ticket will receive one free boat draw ticket. Draw will take place at the Derby awards\Day on August 11th at 3pm. Good Luck and thanks for your support.

The Walkerton Sportsman Show is being held May 31st, June 1st and 2nd. Members of the derby committee will be in attendance to promote the derby and to sell derby and boat draw tickets. Plan on attending this excellent event and purchase your derby ticket

The derby committee hosted a very successful barbeque at the Wal-Mart store in Port Elgin on May 18th. A second barbeque will be held on June 29th from 11 am to 4 pm, again at Wal-mart to raise funds in support of the derby. The cost for food and drinks is by a donation to the derby. Funds generated by these barbeques will be matched by Wal-Mart. Please support this very worthwhile event.

We still DO NOT have a weigh station Foreman for the Saugeen Shores weigh station. Give it some serious thought.

With any event, such as this derby, it is all about volunteers to make it a success. Volunteers play a major role in many aspects for this event, not just committee members. People are needed to coordinate and to assist for special events, such as Media Day and Kids Day. Remember our kid's day event has been a huge hit for our younger generation anglers.

Volunteers are required daily during the derby to assist at the weigh stations in Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, and Pike Bay. Show your support and make this a big success for our club and the derby committee.

Committee members continue to work hard on securing sponsorship for the derby, now focusing on local sponsorship. Sponsorship, no matter how large or how small, helps in putting together the prize packages for the leader board and special events.

Club members are invited to attend Media/Sponsor day July 12th, at the Tiverton Community Centre. For those that wish to attend, it is requested that you confirm your attendance so that we can ensure sufficient food for the number of attendees. Please contact Calvin Kay by July 1st at ick@bmts.com

Harold Cowan has received an order for the 2013 special 30th anniversary Chantry

Chinook Classic derby wear including hats and T shirts. Hats will be available from Harold at \$15.00 each with the T shirts being \$20.00. You can purchase a combo of one of each for \$30.00. They will also be available at special events and at the weigh stations during the derby. Contact Harold at haroldstoy@sympatico.ca.

Remember, the Chantry Chinook Classic is the largest derby on the Ontario side of the lake, north of Bluewater, which supports the fisheries on Lake Huron. Funds generated by this derby helps to support the work of the Lake Huron Fishing Club. The LHFC operates two fish hatcheries that continue to stock salmon and trout in the tributaries that feed Lake Huron. This stocking has and continues to support the sport fishing that we enjoy today and for years to come. By sponsoring and entering this derby, you are doing something to support conservation and the future of sport fishing on Lake Huron and its tributaries.

Bluewater Anglers again held a successful derby with excellent fishing, from April 26th to May 5th with the largest salmon being 18.26 pounds and the largest trout at 25.16 pounds for a lake trout

At the time of writing this update, Fish Kincardine Derby has weighed in salmon at over 15 pounds, with our own Rick Dwinell leading the Derby with a 20.96lbs lake trout. Should the trend continue, there should be some big salmon and trout caught in the 2013 derby. Final results: Rick Dwinell won largest fish with his 20.96lbs lake trout, Bill Wyatt won largest salmon with a 17.98lbs chinook salmon, and Dave Bedford won largest trout with a 18.86lbs lake trout. Congratulations to you all!

Time is fast approaching for the start of our derby. At this time it is only 65 days and eight hours away.

Watch for further updates in next month's newsletter or for continuous updated information on the derby, visit our website at www.chantrychinook.com

BRUCE POWER CELEBRATION

On May 10th, Bruce Power celebrated its 12th Anniversary. BP was kind enough to invite the LHFC as guests and also had Curtis Joseph (retired NHL Goaltender) on hand. They provided a tasty breakfast for all and it was a wonderful time.

On that day, they announced that all reactors at the plant were running, making it the largest Nuclear Power Plant in the world! Amazing!



The dinner guests from Bruce Power had four representatives on hand — Francis, Emily, Cherie-Lee, and Kayla

SON AGREEMENT UPDATE

Soon after the SON agreement came out in the media I sent emails and letters to all the clubs in the affected areas asking them for their thoughts, ideas and concerns so that some format could be constructed to form a unified voice. Response to date has been ZERO. Other organizations have tried to put together town hall type meetings, protests and meetings with government at which some thoughtful comments came forward, but most suffered poor turnout or were cancelled. I sent letters to Mike Morencie and to the

Minister, neither responded to issues raised choosing to send what appear to be form letters in response. There have been meetings between members of other clubs and municipal offices to which the rest of the clubs were excluded. Concerns or questions raised by our membership to date have been zero. Quite frankly, I am unsure what, if any action, that we as a club should or can take on this issue at this point.

Brian Garnet, LHFC President

