

LETTERS , Take someone fishing that is new to the sport,

On June 05/01, I took my son fishing for the first time..... On his first cast he missed the water and ended up in a maple tree ... after an hour, he started to get restless. I told him the only way to catch a fish was to keep his line in the water and lo and behold he said "Dad, I finally got one!"..... He was so excited he had to stop at his Grandmother's so he could call his Mother with the exciting news.



Yours truly,
Richard Corkum,
Western Shore

We gathered along with many others to fish at a lovely pond in Barrington N.S.. Although they claimed to have stocked the pond with 500 trout, we never got a nibble!

But, for three hours on a Saturday morning, we did something fun and different. The experience was enjoyed by all!

We plan to go again soon.
Erin Smith,
Crowell N.S.



To: Trout Nova Scotia,

I wish to enter the Annual Sport Fishing Weekend Contest and perhaps be a lucky winner of a fishing outfit. I heard about the contest on the radio during an interview with Mr. George Taylor. I had already that morning taken my niece fishing and she enjoyed the experience - except for putting worms on the hook - which I had to do!

We got up early and left home before 7am and did our fishing in the Bras D'Or Lakes off the shore at South Cove (a few miles from my home). Although we didn't catch any fish, the early morning was beautiful and the atmosphere very relaxing. Three other people were fishing there at the time, and they had no luck either, but they too were enjoying themselves.



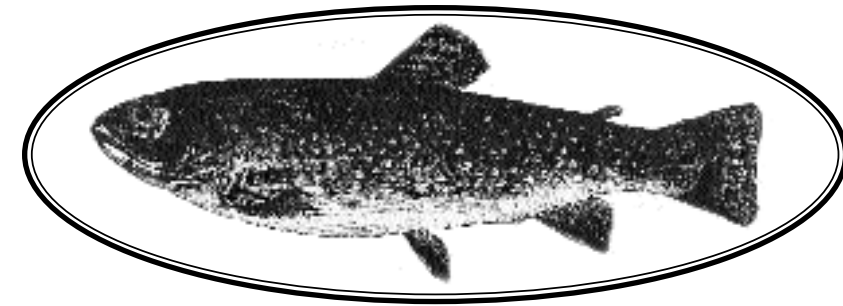
Yours Truly,
Florence MacInnis,
Little Narrows,
Cape Breton.

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RIFFLES AND POOLS

Dedicated to the preservation of Nova Scotia's trout

Editor's Musings

Jamie Steeves

The "Prez." wanted the week off so here I am. Can't blame him really, he's been quite a campaigner for our precious trout. In the same breath, I must apologize for the lateness of this issue, its been a very busy Fall for me on a number of fronts.

Normally the President, George Taylor speaks to fish issues. I draw your attention to the organization itself. Trout Nova Scotia is in its infancy, so it should come as no surprise that we are still finding our way through the start-up hurdles. Through it all, the Directors' enthusiasm has kept TNS involved with current issues, everyone is working hard for trout.

One thing is clear, we know that TNS is the primary advocate for trout in this Province. In this regard, I am always amazed when the Directors meet to hear what has been going on in virtually every corner of the province.... meetings with politicians, civil servants, regulators, enforcement officers, corporations, supporters and members. Underlying all this activity is subtle and unwavering advocacy for the trout and its environs.

In this issue you will read of TNS activities, but more importantly, I hope you will respond to the Directors call to members on page 3. Please take time to read it and get involved.

AGM Notice

March 28, 2002. Bedford Legion, 7PM

Fishing Weekend Fishing Outfit Contest Winners

From the more than fifty entries here are the winners:

- Lloyd DeCoste, Westville
- Richard Corkum, Western Shore
- Florence MacInnis, Little Narrows
- Suzanne Reeves, Sheffield Mills
- Erin Smith, Crowell
- John MacDonald, Halifax
- Susan Haley, Heatherton
- Ryan Belliveau, Oak Park
- Wanda MacLean, Queensville
- James Poirier, Halifax

See excerpts from some of the letters we received on page 8.

... we got a stick and some old fishing line and wrapped it up. (Great Aunt Rose) also recommended a safety pin on the end as a hook, she guaranteed us that we would catch something and her being 86, we trusted her, but we found an extra hook so we used that instead. (and later).

The five of us enjoyed the trip and would have stayed longer had I not fallen in the river. Nobody caught anything except Aunt Diane with the homemade fishing rod. So when I go fishing next year, I'm taking the homemade rod and extra clothes! Susan Haley

Join Us, become a member of Trout NS

Yes, I want to be a member of Trout Nova Scotia and help insure an improved and sustainable trout fishery in the province for future generations. For more information or to send in your membership contact:

membership@troutnovascotia.ca

www.troutnovascotia.ca

- Associate (under sixteen): \$ 6.00
- Regular Member : \$ 15.00
- Family Membership: \$ 20.00
- Corporate Membership: \$ 60.00
- Donation: \$ _____



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The Executive meets Wednesdays
of the first full week each month.

Riffles & Pools is published four times per year.

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February 2, April 6, June 1, September 28.
The Editor reserves the right to edit
for length and clarity.

Trout Nova Scotia
e mail: secretary@troutnovascotia.ca
www.troutnovascotia.ca

Kejimikujik National Park

Catch & Release Update

by Reg Baird & Gary Corbett

In the first two years (1997 & 1998) of the brook trout study to evaluate the success of catch and release, the percentage of four year old trout was 17% at the brook in the hook & release zone and was no different than the study area at the Eel Weir on the Mersey River where a limit of five trout could be retained. However, the percentage of five year old trout caught in the hook and release zone (5.4%) was over double the percentage caught at the Eel Weir (2.3%). The total of large spawners in the hook and release zone was 22.4% as compared to the 19.3% at the Eel Weir.

In 1999 the percentages increased in the hook and release zone to 7.9% five year olds and 18.8% four year olds, making a total of 26.7% large spawners.

In 2000, the percentages increased again in the hook and release zone to 10.7% five year olds and 24.3% four year olds for a total of 35% large spawners.



In 2001 yet another increase in the catch and release zone was seen with 1.3% six year old fish, 16% five year olds and 28% four year old fish for a total of 45.3% large spawners.

In the past three years in the catch and release zone, four and five year old trout have made up 50% of the same year's recaptures. This made it very apparent that once a large trout is released, it immediately returns to and dominates the best feeding station in the pool. These fish are very difficult to recapture. The fact that one five year old male was caught three times in one week and numerous others in one week, attests to the angling skills of our volunteers.

Data that is being analyzed at present from brook trout sampled in Oct/Nov 2001 in the catch and release zone indicates that close to 70% of the trout spawning are 4, 5 and 6 year old trout.

We should mention here that we are also seeing more one year old fish every year in the hook and release zone. This is likely due to a greater number of large spawners escaping angling mortality and thus being able to spawn. With a maximum number of large spawners successfully spawning, more young are being hatched. Although acid rain causes a high mortality of eggs and fry, the increased spawning helps to compensate for these losses.

Questions & Answers with Reg Baird



Photo © James Steeves

Q. What does the term "mending Line" mean ?

A. In my last column I defined the term "drag". "Mending line" describes a semicircular motion of the rod tip used to flip the bow in the fly line up stream and eliminate or at least delay "drag"

Q. What is the difference between a double tapered (DT) and a weight forward (WF) fly line?

A. A double taper line has a long belly section tapering to identical front and rear sections. They are popular where a delicate presentation is required. Double taper fly lines cast well at short to medium long distances and are ideal for roll casting and mending lines. Because both ends are identical, they can be reversed when one end wears or cracks thus extending line life. A weight forward line is designed with most of the weight in the first thirty feet and then tapers quickly to a long, thin section called running line. These lines cast farther than double taper, are better for casting in the wind but do not roll cast well. A weight forward line takes up less space on the reel spool than a double taper.

Q. Why do I have trouble roll casting ?

A. To answer this question, I would like to quote Lefty Kreh: "The roll cast is exactly the same as any other cast - except for one thing, there is no back cast. People get in trouble trying to roll cast because they alter the forward cast completely by throwing the line right at the water instead of casting forward, as they would in a normal cast".

"Sea Run Trout"

the following is an excerpt from a draft report entitled "Special Trout Management Areas in Nova Scotia" by John MacMillan, Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Sea run trout populations have been in a state of decline throughout the southern half of their North American distribution, which includes Nova Scotia. Popular sea run fisheries are located across the province, with the majority of the angling pressure occurring in estuaries and river mouths in the spring of the year. The number of trout in a population that migrate to the ocean can change from year to year, depending on juvenile recruitment and environmental conditions. Sea run brown trout and brook trout remain in fresh water for about three years before migration to salt water in the spring. The purpose of the migration is believed to satisfy a need for more food and space. Estuaries, the place where river water meets salt water, tend to be very productive and are nursery areas for smelt, flounder, gaspereau, shad, and many other species. As a result, food is plentiful and growth rates of sea trout reflect the abundance of food and good growing conditions present in estuaries.

The size at age data collected from sea run populations from Northumberland Strait and Middle River Cape Breton demonstrates the large difference that exists between growth in freshwater and saltwater. Creel survey results from Northumberland Strait indicate that mortality rates tend to be high. On average, 84% of first-time sea run brook trout die before they reached their fourth year, and five-year-old brook trout are rare. Brown trout live longer than brook trout and are believed to be more difficult to catch; however, mortality rates are still quite high, with an average of 88% of four year old sea run brown trout dying before they reach their fifth year, and 85% dying before they reach their sixth year. The high mortality rates are thought to be the result of angling and predation. Angler catch rates of sea runs tend to be low, with 0.1 brook trout and 0.2 brown trout caught per hour; however, angling pressure is high during the first month of the season. As a result, many fish are harvested, which may contribute significantly to the high mortality rates observed. High growth rates and high mortality rates suggest that potential exists for special regulations to greatly improve the number of large trout in the catch of some sea run populations.

Regulations to improve some sea run fisheries in Nova Scotia include a minimum length limit of 35 cm to protect potential first and second time spawners; a delayed opening of angling season date to May, and a daily bag limit of one trout, to reduce harvest; and a gear restriction to fly and single hook lure to increase survival rates of released fish. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has initiated some or all of the above listed special regulations on the West River of Antigonish, Cornwallis River of Kings County, Middle River of Cape Breton, and Stewiacke River of Colchester County in order to protect anadromous brook trout and brown trout populations, and to ultimately enhance the sport fishery.

"East Flowing Rivers - Baseline Water Quality 2001."

A report commissioned by Horticulture Nova Scotia and the Award Program of the Provincial Dept of Agriculture was released in September 2001. The report assesses the water quality of the Pereaux, Cunard and Habitant Rivers in Kings County. Although TNS has not as yet been able to obtain a copy of the report, insiders tell us the results are not promising.

TAiLS from the waters

PAY BACK TIME by Claude Cochrane



When I contributed my first two fishing related stories to our magazine under "Tales of the Waters", Actual Events and Happenings, may have been a more suitable heading. Because after reading only the first story, which incidentally was taken from my book on Family Fishing Secrets and Hub Cap Rust and Removal Methods, volume 11, our Editor, Jamie Steeves, offered a prize for the best "Tall Tale", submitted by a member. An indication that my story could be somewhat suspect in its authenticity.....Jamie, Jamie.

Having gotten past my embarrassment, I agreed to share another from my current best seller.

I live and am privileged to fish on one of Nova Scotia's most beautiful and once prolific rivers. I was introduced to the river at a very early age and a few years later claimed part ownership, to be shared only with my father Claude Sr., who had earned ownership by virtue of his amazing fishing skills, many passed down from my grandfather, Arthur.

I have never had a poor fishing day on this river. Matter of fact, I have never had a poor fishing day. The river often provides an incredible story, not unlike the following.

Many pools along the river have a low clean gravel shoreline opposite treed banks four to six feet in height. In a pool such as this I hooked an enormous speckled trout. Occasionally, after a log drive a few exceptional trout would come down with the high water released from the controlled lake above. This fish was taken on a home tied device, originated by my grandfather, Alex's father, Felix. Fish it dry, "Nymph it", this day as a streamer on a dead drift.

My fly slowed and was starting it's curl at the tail of the pool when the big fish hit. As I lifted my rod tip, all "H" let loose. Salmon, I said to myself as it bored to the bottom and ran about fifty feet, then completely cleared the water. Not a salmon but a monster trout! Another run. Down to bottom and.....slack line. Gone. Believe this if you will, broken line, not leader. Probably lost fifteen to eighteen feet of line plus leader. I was fishing a "Camo line" that is almost invisible under water. Try as I might I could not locate the missing section. I tried casting for it but finally I had to leave the pool before darkness set in. The next day started the work week, as well as a heavy rain. The river rose about a foot and became quite dark.

The following Saturday opened the hunting season and found me in the general area of the lost fish. I decided to take a quick look at the pool. The water level had dropped considerably with the cold nights and had cleared quite nicely. The sun was behind me, allowing me a clear view of a large section of bottom. Then I saw it, "my trout", still in the pool. As well. I saw several smaller trout lying around the outer edge of the pool. After awhile, the big trout eased up from the bottom and made a drive towards two trout about twenty feet away. As the water cleared, the trout were still there. Then the big fish moved another smaller fish, again no catch. A trout about nine inches long drifted into the centre of the pool, the big trout again gave chase, the small fish streaked towards shore to an apparent safe section of the river. It was obvious the smaller fish were safe as long as they stayed at the pool's edge.

The big trout again settled down in the same location. Something screwy here. I removed my clothes and eased into

the cold water about twenty feet below the big trout. As I moved slowly upstream the mystery was solved. The fish was still hooked and the fly line was wedged in a split on a sunken log. The fish could only move about twenty feet in any direction. The smaller fish realizing this were having great fun teasing it. It was in four to five feet of water and the log was maybe one foot above bottom. I could see my fly dangling. It had passed through the hinge of the jaw and had knotted, still holding the fish.

I eased back to shore then returned to the river, armed with my hunting knife. When carefully back into position, I took a deep breath, went under and took the broken line in my hand, taking another breath enabled me to grab the fly and cut it free, knot and all. You would never believe how calm the fish remained as I cut him loose, almost knowing what I was attempting.

The big fish which had to be seven pounds, settled down near the bottom. I slowly moved away barely reaching shore when a series of swirls started, here, over there, everywhere. Once the trout had realized it was free, a slaughter followed. The pool's water became blood streaked and was strewn with bits of meat, bone and skin, from spawn to speckles. Those smaller fish may have had lots of fun tempting the big trout but this was "pay back time".

Five to ten minutes later things returned to normal. Suddenly the big fish swam towards the shore where I stood motionless. It rolled twice, and with that huge dorsal fin showing, moved from the pool, through the rapids, and when above the shoals, gave another roll of apparent appreciation as it started the twelve mile journey to home lake.

Of all the times I have spent on the river, the one I will never forget is "Pay Back Time".



Trespassers Beware!

by Pat Donoghue

As a fisherman I, and many others, suffer under the delusion that we can cross almost any piece of land to gain access to a river or lake in Nova Scotia. The note towards the back of the Summary of Regulations booklet states that we may cross any uncultivated lands, etc, providing we don't cause damage. This is covered by the Angling Act. Mind you, there must be a lot of friendly farmers in Nova Scotia because we frequently walk along the side of a farmer's field, and if that isn't cultivated land then I don't know what is.

However, what we neglected to read was the very last paragraph which contains a reference to the Property Act. Under the Act you may not enter premises (lands and structures) that are enclosed in a manner that indicates the occupiers intention to keep persons off the premises, or engage in an activity which is prohibited on the premises by notice. In other words, if the property is fenced or contains No Trespassing or Private Property signs you may not enter without the owners permission. If you do so you may be charged with an offense and are liable to a fine.

Angling Act:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi/legc/statutes/angling.htm>

Property Act:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi/legc/statutes/protect.htm>

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

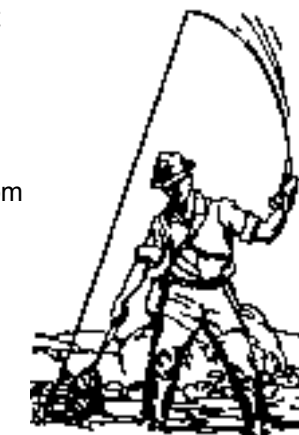
Below is a list of initiatives that Trout Nova Scotia will be undertaking in 2002. For these to be successful, we need member input and participation. **Please mark an "X" next to any of the activities you would like to assist us with.** Check off as many as you wish and include your contact information so we may get in touch with you. Please return your response to any of the following:

Return to:

Trout Nova Scotia
 c/o The Outdoor Centre
 68 Parkhill Road, Halifax NS B3P 1R6
 ATT: George Taylor, President.

Fax: 490-4504

E-mail: troutns@hotmail.com



Trout Nova Scotia Activities for 2002:

Habitat Protection ... Many of our nursery streams - the life blood of trout - are being either damaged or destroyed by a variety of means. TNS successfully worked with logging giant Kimberly-Clark to save a small stream on the Eastern Shore. With a dedicated working group, we feel this practice could be replicated across the province as a way of maintaining the health of our smaller spawning tributaries.

Regulatory Changes to Angling Regulations...Over the last two years, TNS has worked with Inland Fisheries to introduce a number of regulatory changes to the angling regulations designed to protect and enhance trout populations in various areas across the Province. If there are particular rivers, lakes or streams you would like to see protected, we would like to hear from you.

Enforcement... It is important to enforce regulations that aim to protect trout and trout habitat. Due to a limited number of enforcement officers within the Department of Natural Resources, not all rivers, lakes and streams can be monitored on a regular basis. TNS would like to put together a working group to identify some of the important areas to monitor, identify some of the challenges, and propose solutions to the enforcement issue.

Annual General Meeting... TNS held its first AGM in March 2001. With over 100 people in attendance, the event included raffles, a silent auction, various displays, as well as a number of door prizes and interesting guest speakers. To put an event together of this magnitude requires a lot of volunteers. We will be looking for assistance from our members to help organize the AGM to be held on March 28, 2002.

Outdoor Show... TNS participated for the first time in the 2001 Outdoor Show which provided a great deal of exposure for our organization. We plan to set up a booth in 2002 and will need members to conduct fly tying demonstrations, sell TNS hats and crests, as well as provide information to the public on trout and entomology (we will be setting up a trout and insect aquarium). If you are interested in helping us with any of these tasks, please let us know!

Clean Water Committee... TNS would like to form a committee to work with government and environmental groups to ensure we have clean water for trout in Nova Scotia. Current agricultural and logging practices, aggressive residential development, poor septic systems, and government policy are some of the main issues that need to be addressed.

Fund-Raising... Thus far TNS has managed to operate with very little money through the work of our volunteers. In order to develop programs and supply valuable information to our members, we will require additional funding. TNS would like to put together a working group to devise a fund-raising strategy which will involve soliciting funds from various corporations, foundations and other sources. One of our main goals will be to raise enough money to hire an Executive Director on a full-time basis.

Research/Writing/Policy Development... TNS would like to develop policy papers that address the impacts of finfish aquaculture on native brook trout, and the impacts of clearcutting and ATV use on fish habitat. We would also like to work with members interested in conducting research on some of their local waters.

Project HOOK (Help Outfit Our Kids)... The purpose of this program is to supply fishing gear such as rods and reels to kids in need. We require working members who can collect equipment, clean and repair fishing gear, contact dealers for sponsorships, and identify those kids in need.



Your Contact Information:

Name:
 Work Phone:
 Home Phone:
 Fax:
 E-mail:



TROUT NOVA SCOTIA

DIRECTORS AT WORK 2001

Over the course of 2000/2001, Trout Nova Scotia Directors have been working hard on your behalf. Below is a synopsis of the meetings, activities and events where TNS was involved:

~ Participated on the **Inland Fishery Advisory Council (IFAC)** which is comprised of representatives from Inland Fisheries as well as sport fishing associations. Its mandate is to develop policies that have a positive impact on trout habitat and the trout fishery.

~ Met with the **Honourable David Morse, Minister NS Department of Environment and Labour**. Minister Morse indicated a willingness to work with TNS on variety of issues.

~ Met with **Nova Scotia Power** who also indicated a willingness to work with TNS. NSP has offered to make changes to a leasing agreement with the Department of Environment and Labour for the purpose of hydro development - if parts of the agreement have a negative impact on the migration of trout.

~ Negotiated an agreement with timber giant **Kimberly-Clark** who agreed to expand a buffer zone along a stream and watershed in eastern Nova Scotia. Two TNS directors met with a Kimberley-Clark representative on-site who agreed to widen the cutting limits beyond what TNS requested.

~ Met with directors from the **Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA)** who agreed that both organizations need to work together to address similar concerns. TNS is currently working with NSSA and their affiliates on a youth fly fishing program which will be piloted in 2002.

~ On the request of **Inland Fisheries Division**, TNS directors worked with anglers from the six management zones. At the local Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee (RFAC) meetings, consensus was reached on how regulatory changes in each zone could impact favourably on the trout fishery. Some of these suggestions resulted in **changes** that appeared in the **2001 angling regulations**.

~ Ensured at least **two directors were present at each RFAC** meeting held in the spring and fall. TNS was in attendance to keep informed and to answer any questions pertaining to the organization. These meetings are open to the public and have representatives from Inland Fisheries to address any public concerns.

~ Participated in a **trout management study** in Kejimikujik National Park. This involved catch and release fishing and the collection of data.

~ Participated in the 2001 **Sports/Outdoor Show** at Exhibition Park in Halifax where a booth was set up and information packages distributed. The booth featured displays of live trout, aquatic life, free literature, as well as fly tying demos, raffles, sales, etc.

~ Held first **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** at the Bedford Legion with well over 100 people in attendance. The event included an aquatic insect tank for viewing, raffles, a silent auction, various displays, as well as a number of door prizes and interesting guest speakers.

~ Promoted and organized the Free **Sport Fishing Weekend** held in June 2001. This event required several months of planning including organizing events (fishing derbies), putting together an advertising campaign (posters, radio and TV coverage) as well as acquiring prizes.

~ Drafted a set of **TNS bylaws and constitution** to be presented to members for approval at 2002 AGM.

~ Met with **Chief Reg Maloney of the Indian Brook Native Band**. The purpose of this initial meeting was to gain input from the native community as to the main issues contributing to the decline of trout populations. Chief Maloney made us feel welcome resulting in some positive dialogue and a promise to meet again.

~ Focussed media attention (both television and print) on the issue of high fecal coliform counts present in the **Cornwallis River in King's County**. Vigorous testing at eleven sites along the river by Friends of the Cornwallis found fecal coliform counts 10 - 15 times above acceptable levels. The year previous, TNS expressed concerns to the Department of Environment and Labour that the department was perhaps allowing more water in water leases to agriculture than was actually in the river. Leasing amounts are now being more carefully monitored.

~ Attended meetings of the newly formed **Valley Watershed Stewardship Association** held in Waterville, King's County. TNS elected member Scott Cook to represent TNS on the Board of Directors.

~ Met with various provincial **river associations** to listen to their concerns with respect to their local waters.

~ Continued to send out the **TNS newsletter** to all membership.

~ Continued to maintain and update **TNS website** at www.troutnovascotia.ca.

~ TNS board members to become members of **Nova Scotia River Watch in 2002** - a province-wide volunteer initiative designed to educate participants on the importance of our habitat and fisheries resources. River Watch is also involved in the proper observation, recording and reporting of violations affecting these resources.

(Editor's Note) A full text of TNS activities by Claude Cochrane is available on the TNS website and will be available at the 2002 AGM.

Heritage Notes by Mike Murray

Vieth, Frederick Harris D. Recollections of the Crimean Campaign and the Expedition to Kinburn in 1855. Including also Sporting and Dramatic Incidents in Connection with Garrison Life in the Canadian Lower Provinces. Montreal: John Lovell and Son, 1913.

Frederick Vieth was in the 63rd Foot and the 11th Regiment of Nova Scotia Militia. He was a dedicated campaigner for the preservation of the river fishery in Nova Scotia. In 1868 Veith wrote A brief Report on the Conditions of the Principal Rivers on the South Coast of Nova Scotia. There are, I fancy, few places where a disciple of the "gentle Isaac" can more readily and successfully indulge in his favorite pastime of trout fishing than in Nova Scotia. A glance at the map will show to the casual observer the perfect network of lakes and streams with which it is covered, and few cities, I think, can boast of more trout fishermen than Halifax, the officers of the Fleet and Garrison adding largely to the number. There is a pretty sheet of water near Lower Ward, St. Margaret's Bay, called Oak Hill Lake, which was, in the proper season, famous for good sized trout, and to this we on one occasion journeyed, and as the trip was a very successful one, I will describe it.

We arrived at our destination at Lower Ward in the evening, and after a very early breakfast next morning set out for the lake, something over a mile away. We found the boat, which we had hired at the house we had just left, in its accustomed place at the lake side, and putting our rods up we rowed out towards the centre, and each taking in turn oars, and rod, we picked up by hard work ten beautiful trout that would average over a pound each, close by a half sunken reef of rocks. But it was slow work. The fish were busily engaged feeding at the bottom on the caddis of the Mayfly, and the granite rocks and alder bushes on the shores were literally covered with the new born flies, but they had not begun to flit upon the water, as they would later on, when more matured. We saw few fish rising. Keeping within nice casting distance from the shore we cruised about, taking an occasional good fish. But the wind rising, made a nasty lop on the side of the lake, where from former experience, we knew that the best fishing was to be had, and this decided us to portage our boat, if we could, into an adjoining small lake, where the surrounding hills made a better shelter. Repeated efforts soon convinced us, however, that this was not a feasible operation unassisted, our united strength not being sufficient for the purpose, and reluctantly we left our weighty tub on the beach.

It was but a short walk across the portage, and around the little lake we worked our way to the windward side, where a point jutted out, and all looked calm and inviting. We fished there a little while without success—the water proving too shallow—but, while filling my pipe, I noticed trout breaking far out where a light zephyr just fanned the surface of the water, and at once we set about coaxing them within reach of our flies. And this was the plan we adopted.

What little wind there was in this warm sheltered spot was blowing at our backs, and we first provided ourselves each with a small branch of a fir tree growing near. These we dipped into the water, and then lightly brushing the

the bushes and boulders on the shore with them while wet, scores of Mayflies adhered, and wading out as far as we could, we plunged the boughs beneath the surface. Of course, the flies did not sink and in an instant there was a perfect flotilla of these inky insects being driven out by the breeze towards the middle of the lake; and presently the fun began. Far out at first we saw the trout turning over, sucking in the flies. A second time we sent a huge squadron of little black sails afloat, a third, a fourth, and kept at it as quickly as possible, while all this time the trout trimmed in shoreward to meet these dainty tid-bits, until at last, within an easy cast, we had the water bubbling with rising fishes.

And now, rods in hand, we stepped into the water, and floating out a few more natural flies, we sent our artificial ones among them. What glorious sport we had! Often two were hooked at a time, and we kept on catching them, until the baskets at our backs began to be weighty. When the rising ceased for a time, the wet branches loaded with the gossamer insects again were put into requisition, and again our handing nets were busy. It was scarcely possible that such sport as we were having during the few hours we spent at this place could have been excelled. Our baskets were not only filled, but we carried away twigs, on which were strung the trout for which we had no room.

That day, between us, we caught at Oak Hill and the little lake ninety trout, which weighed seventy pounds. Among them were one of two and one-half pounds, several between one and two pounds, and not one of the lot that we took but would weigh one-half pound. It was a very enjoyable trip indeed.

TROUT DID YOU KNOW ?

with Gary Corbett

Experienced anglers know that the best holes or channels in any stream will harbour the biggest trout. Like successful businesses the three keys to successful fishing are location, location, location. But, why do the best holes contain the best trout? Would you not think that they would contain just a lot of fish of all sizes?

Firstly, at certain times of the year trout are territorial. That is, a dominant trout will choose a preferred site and defend it from intruders. We observed this in the Kejimikujik study; when a 5 year old trout was removed from his lie it would soon be taken over by a 3 or 4 year old and then a 2 year old if there were no bigger fish around. During the spring insect hatches there is a lot of jockeying by big trout to assume the best position to take advantage of the "invertebrate drift". Scientifically speaking, this position provides the greatest gross energy intake, after the subtraction of swimming costs (energy used).

Scientists used to believe that trout would position themselves by selecting a water velocity that optimizes the trade-off between food supply and swimming costs. Recent studies where individual trout have been observed and feeding stations recorded, however, put the best fish right out in peak currents where the drift is the best.

During off periods, it may be true that these dominant fish will go for less current and better cover to maximize net energy gain while darting out to take food. This position could be just behind the side of large rocks, in bottom depressions or deeper holes. Younger or smaller fish are relegated to less desirable locations, maybe in shallower water along the side of the stream.

So, the next time you go fishing, try to read the water. Look for deep holes, mid stream boulders, sunken logs and the corner of river bends. When the hatches are on strong, look for the sites of maximum insect drift. If you don't catch any big ones chances are someone else has fished through before you.

But you knew all of this anyway, right!

Tight lines and practise catch and release.

