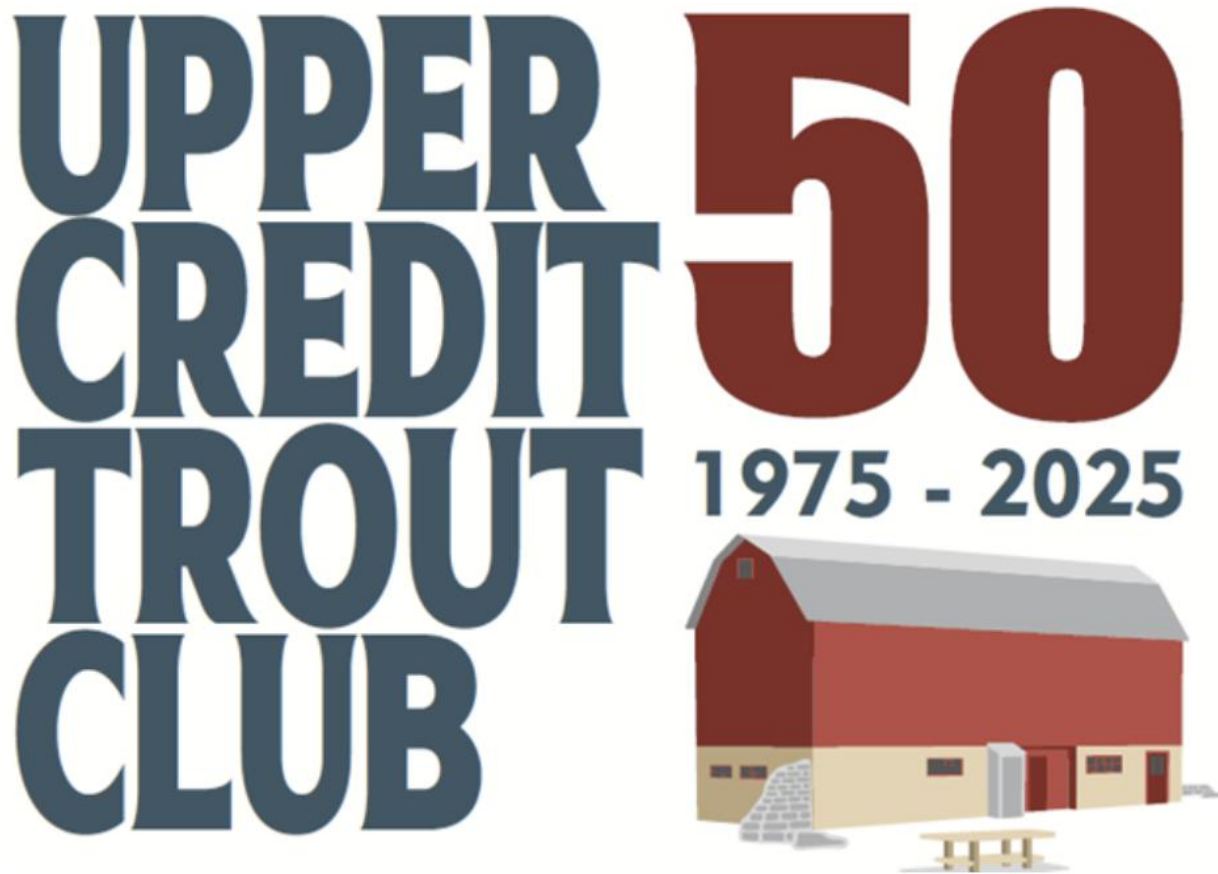


So Many Wonderful Times

Poem by L.D. Embrey



Founding father, Gordon Adams



The Upper Credit Trout Club Turns 50. So Many Wonderful Times

So many good things happen when one turns 50.
Reviewing memories is often the best part.
Our lovely UCTC is 50 this year so we need to celebrate.
Question is, "Where do we start?"

"At the beginning!" is the obvious choice.
What a great start it was back in 1975
When one dedicated fisherman came up with a plan
To make Caledon worth the drive.

Gordon Adams (1905-2000) was our founding father.
Thanks to him our lovely flyfishing club began.
In his late 40's Gordon purchased 54 acres on the banks of the Credit,
Hoping to enjoy his hobby as an avid fly fisherman.

He decided to build a summer home on the property;
Time on the Credit River would be well spent.
That house later became his year-round residence,
So he could fly fish to his heart's content.

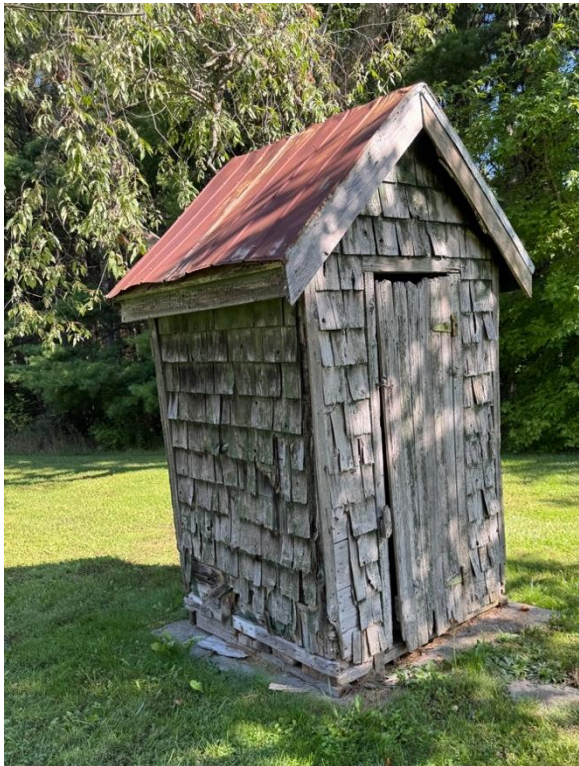
Gordon had his home built right on the river,
Just down the road from our current club's address.
It is no longer lived in, but is owned by our landlord.
Unfortunately, our club has no access.

This home on a lovely river was something
That Gordon held dear.
But he also had other grand plans
Which he undertook after several years.

When he turned 70, he viewed a steel span barn
On display in Toronto at the Royal Winter Fair.
It was a cost-effective alternative to a barn made of wood,
As he no doubt was well aware.

He bought one and had it erected in 1975,
Right on the spot where it still exists today.
It was obviously a wise purchase
As it has weathered well in almost every way.

Notice **Stonecrop** sign in top righthand corner



Major General Sir Charles Falkland Loewen

As soon as the barn was built, it became a focal point
For a group of Gordon's like-minded friends.
With them he formed the Stonecrop Trout Club in 1975,
A name that lasted 11 years before it came to an end.

In those early years the club house
Was much more rustic than it is now.
It didn't have any inside facilities,
Yet he and his fellow fishers managed somehow.

The original outdoor privy still stands,
'Tho it hasn't been in use for a long time.
The club jokingly stated it was endorsed by the 'Privy Council'.
It must have been breathtaking (ahem) in its prime.

By 1978 the Stonecrop Trout Club attracted members from the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club,
As well as the Trout Unlimited Greg Clark Chapter.
They, too, enjoyed the 'social side' of being together,
From tying flies to consuming a bottle of brandy right after.

Gordon was also a member of the Caledon Mountain Trout Club,
And he modelled elements of his Stonecrop Club after it.
His rules were very strict in many ways.
If he didn't like you, you weren't welcome. Not a bit.

It didn't take long for the membership to grow,
And soon there were 30 or more,
Including Major General Sir Charles Falkland Loewen,
A decorated soldier from the Second World War.

Sir Charles was a skilled fisherman, and wrote Fly Fishing Flies,
About the natural trout food of the lakes in B.C.
When he published it, in 1978, he was a Stonecrop Club member.
He later became the first winner of the Stonecrop Presidents Trophy.

The Stonecrop Club had two spring-fed ponds down from the barn
That were stocked with Rainbows to augment the native Speckled Trout.
In 1984 Gordon added a third pond, between the two,
Hoping wild Brook Trout would seek the place out.



Some club members felt the 3rd pond interfered with the underground springs.
The number of Brook Trout in the river certainly declined.
Were the trout being affected without those springs feeding into the river?
A definitive answer was impossible to find.

There had always been significant populations of Brook Trout
Elsewhere on the Credit, both upsteam and down.
But soon there were no longer any fish in that part of the river,
No Brook Trout, no Rainbows, no Brown.

In 1986 land around the club was being bought up,
And Gordon was approached to sell.
Some members put together an offer to purchase his property
But, unfortunately, their offer didn't do well.

Shortly after Gordon sold the property to a local developer.
The new owner liked the idea of a fishing club there.
So the club continued, but changed its name.
The Upper Credit Trout Club had a certain flair!

And so the Upper Credit Trout Club began.
(That name is now 39 years old.)
With the increased investment from new ownership,
The club house was refurbished and modernized. Flush toilets were a lot less cold.

The ponds were also expanded and deepened
To create the one long pond that we still have today.
And the charming stone bridge was also built.
Fishers had a shortcut across the pond that way.

The house overlooking the pond was built by that first buyer,
But he was never granted an occupancy permit.
Seems he had not been given permission to build,
So for all these years, empty that lovely house would sit.

In 1996 the property was taken over by the Humeniuk brothers.
These new owners also acquired additional land nearby.
They have been tremendously supportive of our club.
We're so thankful for the help they supply.



FLY FISHING CANADA



PÊCHE À LA MOUCHE CANADA



In 1999 our club embarked on a special Millennium Project.
It was funded by 17 of our members. They recruited 26 women and men.
They tied 126 flies that are now displayed in our club house.
Quite a testament to the skills and dedication of all of them.

In the early 2000's our club helped financially with the Credit River Rehabilitation Project.
Its aim was to determine what caused the disappearance of Brook Trout,
And to take actions to rehabilitate the river to bring them back.
Why did the Brook Trout vanish? How did that come about?

No answers were found and the trout never returned, but our club shouldered on,
Trying to make a difference to others in any way we could.
In 2003 our club co-hosted Canada's first Casting for Recovery program.
It let women with breast cancer have a day of fishing. That was incredibly good.

Our club has continued over the years,
Partnering with others to improve the lives of all who fish.
They have undertaken Brook Trout counting sessions on the Credit,
As Trout Unlimited Greg Clark Chapter wished.

Along with the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club in 2016,
UCTC helped revive the Canadian Fly Fishing Forum,
To view movies, watch casting demonstrations, do fly tying,
And learn about important environment decorum.

UCTC also hosted other clubs
Such as Winter Hatches Fly Fishing Club's season opener in 2017,
That offered a great chance for UCTC
To introduce others to our club and have our club seen.

Our club hosted Kitchener Waterloo Flyfishers,
And the annual Canadian National Fly Fishing Championship too.
It was apparent from new members joining our club,
That these gatherings did what we hoped they would do.

Our social responsibilities were always in the forefront,
As exemplified by being one of the original sponsors in 2018,
Of Bring Back Brookies to the Upper Credit Conservation Area.
It's lovely to see the river look pristine.



Winter Dinner in Toronto



Family Day



Golf and Fish Day



Winter Day

Just recently our club took part in Project Healing Waters.
This allowed injured Canadian soldiers to fly fish for the day.
They could forget their troubles for a few hours,
And enjoy themselves in every way.

From the beginning, way back in 1975,
It was apparent this club would be an active and social one,
With lots of hands pitching in as needed,
To help keep the club clean, but also to have fun.

Winter dinners, first held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto,
Then later at a local golf club, gave us reason
To keep in touch with each other and look forward
To the annual activities ahead in a warmer season.

From the beginning, the UCTC Clean Up Day was legendary,
Especially with certain 'toasted' members volunteering to BBQ.
Our Opening and Closing Days were fancy affairs,
Complete with linen table cloths and lots of wine too.

The laid-back gatherings like Family Day
With a pig roast and enough corn to feed 100 or more,
Has always been well attended,
With dogs, kids and grandkids galore.

There were casting clinics and fishing contests,
And lots of time to chat with old friends.
The members came early to these events,
And rarely wanted the day to end.

To add to the fun, back several years ago,
A Golf and Fish Day was introduced to all.
They spent the day golfing at Osprey Valley,
Then dined at UCTC while boasting about who hit the longest ball.

Starting in 2017, the first Winter Day was organized,
And held in our club and outside in the snow.
It was a great time to sit around the firepit,
Enjoying lunch together before it was time to go.



Membership Directory



Our Logo Model



Old Grey Beard



There have been so many happy times at our club,
From Billy Vickers singing The Anglers Song written in 1678,
To purchasing and wearing our logoed garb
Of vests, shirts, hats and belts. All look great.

Since 2016 we have had an official Membership Directory
Given yearly to each of us.
It's nice to look up where other members live,
And to get their contact info without any fuss.

There have been difficulties for our club as well,
Of that there is no doubt.
From dock repairs to repairing outdoor furniture,
Overcoming challenges is what UCTC is all about.

There are massive fish stockings to be organized
Every spring and every fall,
And when our long-time stocking company retired,
Other companies were quickly sourced out to look after it all.

When it comes to predators like mink, cormorants,
And Charlie Parker, our blue heron, they are soon out-matched.
Our members keep an eye on these creatures,
Frightening them away or, when needed, having them 'dispatched'.

There is an animal at our club,
One that is often maligned.
Some mistakenly think he's a predator,
And that misinformation is not fine.

As our club celebrates 50 years,
We need to celebrate Old Gray Beard, our snapping turtle's life too,
It has been estimated that he is 50 years old.
He was just a wee hatchling when our club was brand new.

He doesn't attack our fish,
But acts as a clean-up guy instead,
By hunting down sick and injured fish,
And feeding on the dead.



PRESENTED BY ORVIS BAJIO TROUT UNLIMITED Abel

INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL

May 15-17
2020
Trout Unlimited

Jerry Humeniulk



But mice? They have been an ongoing concern,
And were truly out of control in 2016.
An annual exterminator was called in
And now mice are rarely seen.

The algae and bacterial count in the pond
Continue to be concerns we've had for a long time.
But UCTC members and executive haven't given up.
They are constantly seeking a solution that eventually will work fine.

Committee members and volunteers have been vital
In keeping our club running smoothly.
For fulfilling their roles with such dedication and finesse,
A special thank you to Norm Huff, Pierre Turgeon, Kim Shikaze and Gregg Embrey.

And we could never forget a married couple,
Who have been key at so many of our special days.
Thank you to Angi and Brad, our caterers.
We offer them our highest praise.

Doing things with fellow club members like fishing in the Yukon or B.C.,
Or attending the International Fly Fishing Film Festival in Toronto in 2020,
Always made for interesting times. Then suddenly in March of that year
It was the end of our Horn of Plenty.

Yes, in March 2020, COVID reared its ugly head.
Suddenly our club house and grounds were closed,
And only fish feeding was allowed for humanitarian reasons.
There was nothing anyone could do or propose.

We all wisely adhered to the government's Stay-At-Home order,
And kept looking forward to the day
When the club would be allowed to reopen,
Even though many restrictions would still get in the way.

It was during this time that we heard very sad news.
Jerry Humeniuk, our benevolent landlord and friend, had passed away.
We'll miss him sitting at the head table during our events,
Enjoying a piece of pie and shot of brandy on that day.

Welcome Back BBQ



A Systematic Scientific Check of Our Pond



 **Peel Region**



**Credit Valley
Conservation**
inspired by nature

Far, far too often over the years
Our flag has had to fly at half mast,
As we said goodbye and honoured old friends.
Our hearts were broken that they had passed.

Because of COVID we didn't socialize much in 2020 and the next year.
We wore masks and stayed 6 feet from everyone.
We constantly sanitized our hands, and got vaccinated.
Without being with our fishing buddies, life wasn't as much fun.

Then in September 2021, although it had to be held outside,
The club hosted a Welcome Back BBQ.
We had to practice social distancing and wear masks,
But we were back together, doing what we loved to do.

We had club concerns other than COVID restrictions.
Our pond water was very turbid and the water level too low.
A committee from our membership was formed.
They teamed up with some scientists in the know.

A Groundwater Resources Team for the Region of Peel,
Two independent hydro-geologists,
And a hydrologist at Credit Valley Conservation,
Rounded out the committee list.

Tests and readings were taken from all over the pond,
And data was collected all summer long.
We worried about what they might discover.
Would it be our pond's swan song?

By early 2022 we learned our pond was 'moderately' healthy.
It wouldn't need to be dredged for a long time.
Although ammonia and phosphorous levels were higher than ideal,
Our fish were in good health and doing just fine.

We'd have to keep an eye on things and cross our fingers
That Mother Nature will supply enough rain and winter snow.
Our fountains were doing a good job of aerating the pond,
But so much bird poop simply had to go.



For years, lots of Canada Geese made the UCTC their home,
And we needed to find a way to discourage them.
Bringing dogs to walk around the pond
Helped to create a bit of mayhem.

Finally, a more long-term solution was found,
And several coyote decoys were bought.
Members helped by moving them from place to place.
Who knew such an easy solution could be sought?

How to summarize what this club
Has meant to so many?
We need to look no further than five key 'F' words.
Those few words say plenty.

Fishing, Flies, delicious Food, good Friends,
All sharing so many **Fun** times.
These 5 wonderful 'F' words
Have made for such great pastimes.

Our club has always had friendly member, hardworking presidents,
And help from the occasional committee.
Thank you, Gordon Adams, for starting it all 50 years ago,
And for picking a spot so pretty!

A special thank you to the committed presidents of UCTC:

Jack Bamm (1979-1981)
Tony Higgins (1981-1983)
Don Nobel (1983-1984)
Bill Harshaw (1984-1985)
Gary Garbers (1985-1986)
Ken Coupland (1986-1988)
John Wright (1988-1989)
Jim Betram (1989-1999)
Norm Huff (1999-2015)
Simon Witts (2015-present)

And a special shoutout to all of us. We have made The Upper Credit Fishing Club a viable,
friendly, welcoming place.