

Fish Futures Inc.

Conservation and Enhancement
of Freshwater Fisheries



www.fishfutures.net

Volume 7
Issue 2
Summer '08

Fish News

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS FISH FUTURES - STRONG AND PROUD



David Carrick, founder and President of Fish Futures, accepts an award of recognition for over 20 years of service in conserving and enhancing Manitoba's freshwater fisheries - May 1st, 2008 at the Fish Futures Banquet.

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20TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

BANQUET 2008

NEW PROJECTS

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FISH FUTURES TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

David Carrick, founder and President of Fish Futures, attended a seminar that Don Lamont and Gord Pyzer were conducting at the International Inn, circa 1988. Pyzer was a Fisheries Manager for Northwest Ontario, and he said that given the current funding levels the best any government could hope to accomplish in managing the fisheries resource was to moderate its decline!

Said Carrick "That statement became an immediate call to action for me, and has motivated me throughout the past 21 years in all of my activities through both Fish Futures and the new Fisheries Enhancement Fund. I hope that these words will also be a call to action to each of you. Our Fisheries Branch needs our involvement and support now even more than they did 21 years ago".

From humble beginnings Fish Futures has grown. Our first banquet was in the spring of 1988, 60 people paid \$40 for a supper at the Marigold Restaurant, and Babe Winkelman was the featured speaker. Net proceeds supported Fish Futures' first project, an 18 month study of channel catfish in the Red River.

Fast forward May 1, 2008, and the Fish Futures Banquet is one of the most successful held each year in Winnipeg, with over 600 people in attendance, and with net proceeds that are among the highest of any banquet in Winnipeg.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISH FUTURES WORK IN MANITOBA

1. The implementation of the catch-and-release regulation for channel catfish in excess of 60 centimetres or 24 inches. Fish Futures organized the lobbying effort that convinced the Manitoba government to pass this regulation. This marked the first time that a fishery was protected in North America while still at its prime.
2. The establishment of the Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF), with Fish Futures again leading the lobbying effort.

For the year ending March 31, 2008, FEF received applications in excess of \$1.4 million. FEF had only \$600,000 to distribute, and the funds were spent on a superb cross-section of projects throughout the province.

Then, Fish Futures led the lobbying efforts that resulted in Manitoba's fishing license fees to increase by \$3 per license in 2008. This resulted in FEF increasing to \$850,000 this year, the entire amount of which is funded by anglers.

To put this in context, the FEF now effectively represents the entire budget that our provincial Fisheries Branch has to work with to manage the recreational, commercial and subsistence fishery in this province, after they deduct the money that they spend on hatchery and stocking programs. The FEF represents \$850,000 in new funds that are dedicated each year to recreational fisheries in Manitoba.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A HUGE HIT!

A Letter From Jerry Kruczek, Chairman - Fish Futures Banquet Committee

Our second year at the Canad Inns Polo Park turned out to be a bigger success than the committee ever dreamed. From the fabulous attendance gifts of a Rapala engraved 20th Anniversary filleting knife and custom-imprinted Lucky Strike lure, to the limited edition 20th Anniversary embroidered Plano tackle box and to the dinner menu change to Prime Rib, all accounts are pointing to one of the most successful banquets ever.

Once again a huge thank you must go out to Craig Best, Richard Burton, Karen Jost, and all of the staff at Canad Inns Polo Park for helping put on such an incredible event.

As always we gauge our success by what our guests are saying, and this year we have been inundated with comments as to how excellent the evening was! Thank you to all those who have made their opinions known as well as everyone who attended the banquet this year.

A special thank you to all our sponsors, new and old. Without these individuals and corporations the show just wouldn't go on. There are just too many to mention here, but I think you know who you are.

What would a Fish Futures Banquet be without our hostesses? These ladies work hard all evening long and help sell tickets to our various raffles and draws. A huge thank you to all of the hostesses.

Our first attempt at an Oyster Bar, known as the *Suck-and-Shoot*, started off slow but ended with a bang. Special thanks to Ian Proven and the hostesses for making the *Suck-and-Shoot* a fun place for our guests to enjoy some fresh shucked oysters and shots. Apparently a few laughs were had too!

This year we had the privilege of honoring as our Long Time Contributor, Gord Howard and the Keg Restaurant and Bar, who have donated the now world-famous Backyard BBQ since our second banquet. The Keg Backyard BBQ is one of our most popular auction items, and over the years the money it raises has supported many Fish Futures projects and initiatives.

The tally is done, and this year's 20th Anniversary banquet raised approximately \$60,000 that will go toward worthwhile projects and continue to make Manitoba the great place it is to live and fish.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Vice Chair John Armitage and all the committee members who put in incredibly long hours to help make this year's Fish Futures Banquet the success it was.

Best wishes for an incredible summer and don't forget to plan to attend the 2009 Fish Futures Banquet on May 7th at the Canad Inns Polo Park.

Sincerely,

Jerry Kruczek
Chairman, Fish Futures Banquet Committee



*"Working Today
for Tomorrow's Fisheries Resource"*

What is Fish Futures Inc.?

Fish Futures Inc. is a non-profit, registered charitable organization dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of freshwater fisheries through:

- Sponsorship, development and encouragement of research projects.
- Habitat preservation, enhancement and management projects.
- Public education to increase awareness of the value of freshwater fisheries and the need for conservation and enhancement of fish stocks and habitat.

Fish Futures is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of members of the public and representatives of government, industry and the scientific community.

For more information about Fish Futures Inc. please contact us at:

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Fish Futures Projects 2008

Red River Creel Survey

Fish Futures will sponsor the first creel survey of the Red River since 1982. The Red River, north of Lockport, is the most heavily utilized sport fishery in this province. This fishery adds approximately \$30 million every year to the local economy. Our Fisheries Branch needs up-to-date information to manage and enhance this multiple species, world-class fishery.

Provincial Youth Angling Coordinator

Fish Futures has hired Don Lamont as Provincial Youth Angling Coordinator. Fish Futures will sponsor this new position for the first six months, and the project objectives are as follows:

1. maximize the number of Manitoba youth who are introduced to angling, in a manner that encourages them to both continue angling and also become stewards of the fisheries resource in the process;
2. liaise with all organizations involved in the promotion of youth angling in Manitoba, with a view to maximizing the success of each of their projects;
3. increase the sponsorship of youth angling in the province by government agencies, the business community and the public in general;
4. consider whether or not, and to what extent, a specific ongoing program could be developed and implemented for youth at risk; and
5. work with government to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet / enhance present youth angling program initiatives in Manitoba, and develop alternative programs to increase youth participation in recreational angling across the province.

Don started his new position on April 15th 2008 and can be reached at 204-987-1440 or by e-mail at dlamont@mts.net