

Fish Futures Inc.

Conservation and Enhancement
of Freshwater Fisheries



www.fishfutures.net

Volume 3
Issue 4
Winter 2004

Fish News

Youth Fishing Program

**550+ Young Anglers
Free Equipment, Valuable Education**



Also in this Issue:

Ask the Professor - Lake Sturgeon - Scholarship Winners



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Ask the Professor

How can cottagers maintain "riparian zones" to improve the quality of our lakes and rivers?

The riparian zone is the land area bordering a water body. It can vary in extent from a narrow fringe along the shore to tens or hundreds of kilometers back from the water, in the case of river flood plains. The riparian zone has a distinctive community of plants and animals that are adapted to living along the water's edge. Many species live only in riparian areas. A healthy riparian community is important to the water body because it offers cover and food for both aquatic and terrestrial animals living along the shoreline, it filters suspended mud and nutrients runoff water before it gets to the water body, and it stabilizes the banks against erosion and collapse into the water.

People who own shoreline properties can help preserve the health of the riparian community and the water body in a variety of ways. First, extensive clearing of shoreline vegetation removes cover, increases water temperature, and can cause bank erosion. This reduces the habitat available to terrestrial plants and animals of the riparian community. Increased light reaching the water after shoreline clearing can cause algal blooms in the area, making the water unpleasant to swim in and possibly causing toxicity problems, if the algae are blue-greens.

The addition of boulder riprap to armour the shore against erosion will eliminate beds of aquatic plants, which are important spawning and shelter areas for fish and invertebrates, resulting in reduced production of game fish. Putting in sand to create a swimming beach replaces productive habitats with one of the least productive habitats along fresh or saltwater shorelines. Installation of shoreline structures such as docks and boathouses also affect the distribution and abundance of aquatic plants and animals. They generally reduce plants by shading them out, but they can provide cover for fish and other aquatic animals.

Shoreline property owners need to make decisions about developing their properties that will have complex and far-reaching consequences for the whole water body. Ideally, shoreline development planning should be done on a lake-by-lake basis, with critical shoreline areas identified and protected, and areas for more intensive development also identified in advance.

Curious about Fish?

Send your Fish Biology / Habitat questions to: AskTheProfessor@shaw.ca

Fish Futures and Neultin Lodge Sponsor Youth Fishing Program

Gary Gurke and Fish Futures are working together to sustain a new youth fishing initiative in Manitoba. A trip to Nueltin Lodge was auctioned at the Fish Futures Annual Spring Banquet and a portion of the proceeds were put towards educational seminars and free fishing equipment for Lynn Lake and Lac Brochet. (The remaining proceeds will help sponsor 600 youth into the Fish Winnipeg program).

Lynn Lake proudly calls itself the Sport Fishing Capital of Manitoba. Once a vibrant mining community, Lynn Lake now promotes sport fishing and tourism in an effort to grow and diversify their economic base. Mr. Gurke and Fish Futures want to encourage young people to sport fish. Fishing is good fun, and there are jobs in the fishing industry.

The first ever Lynn Lake Family Fishing Day took place this summer, with over 300 free fishing rods distributed to the young people of the community. Mr. Gurke and Fish Futures also donated a brand new 16-foot aluminum boat, motor and trailer to the Town. This boat will be used by groups such as the Lynn Lake Friendship Centre, West Lynn Heights School, and the Junior Rangers, to promote boat safety and responsible sport fishing practices.

The Youth Fishing Program also visited the remote, northern community of Lac Brochet. Mr. Gurke, The Complete Angler Don Lamont, and Natural Resource Officer Earl Simmons recently spoke with 60 high school students and 200 elementary students about sport fishing and conservation. Each student went home with a free ice fishing rod and reel. The Program also donated an ice auger, skimmers, and lures for field trips this winter. The day was made complete with a Christmas lunch for the students.

Fish Futures would like to acknowledge the generous support and cooperation of Gary Gurke and Nueltin Lodge. Fish Futures would also like to thank Skyward Aviation, Calm Air and Gardewine for their donations, and all volunteers and participants that made these important events possible.

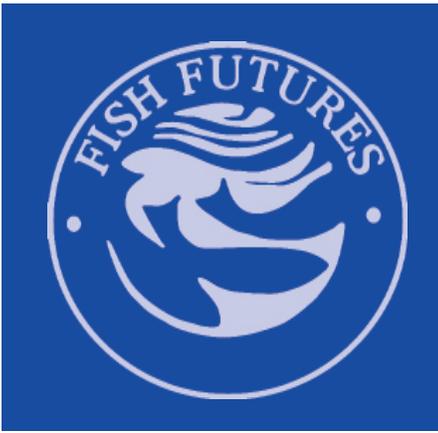


Mayor Audie Dulewich, NRO Linda Horner, Lois and Gary Gurke (left to right) give away free rods and reels at the Lynn Lake Family Fishing Day.



Don Lamont, Gary Gurke, and NRO Earl Simmons (left to right) with an enthusiastic group of young people from Peter Casimir Memorial School in Lac Brochet.

*Cover Page:
NRO Earl Simmons, Gary Gurke, and Don Lamont momentarily contain the excitement of a group of elementary students.*



*"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.

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Quick Strikes

The Lake Sturgeon is being reviewed by COSEWIC (Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada) to determine if this species is a candidate for their species-at-risk listing. COSEWIC is a committee of experts that assesses and designates which wild species are in some danger of disappearing in Canada. It is suspected that Lake Sturgeon may be at risk and require special protections. The status report for the Lake Sturgeon is still under review by the committee, and their recommendations are not expected until sometime after May 2005. "Fish News" will report the findings of this review in a future issue.

The winners of the Dr. Ken Stewart Scholarship in Aquatic Sciences are Susan Hertam and Karen Suchy. Ms. Hertam is a M. Sc. student in the Department of Botany at the University of Manitoba. She is studying the effects of carp feeding on water quality in Delta Marsh. Ms. Suchy is also a M. Sc. student in the Department of Botany at the University of Manitoba. She is studying the ecological effects of an invasion of Lake Winnipeg by exotic species of zooplankton. Both winners have completed successful field seasons, and are now analyzing their data and preparing for scientific meetings and publications. The Dr. Ken Stewart Scholarship in Aquatic Sciences is sponsored by Fish Futures.

The Manitoba Angling Survey will be conducted for 2005. A random sample of license holders will be queried on sport fishing. In 2000, when the survey was last conducted, there were 185,971 licensed adult anglers in Manitoba, who caught almost 14 million fish, releasing 77% of their catch. Anglers spent over \$120 million in Manitoba on activities and supplies directly related to fishing, plus an additional \$92 million on major purchases and investments related to fishing. "Fish News" will report the results of this survey in a future issue.

Important Dates for 2005:

Fish Futures Spring Banquet	May 5 th
Opening Day for Angling	May 14 th (South) May 21 st (North)
Family Fishing Weekend	June 11 th – 12 th
Fish Winnipeg	June 14 th
Winnipeg Fish Festival	July 9 th