

In the Beginning . . .

The first 5 Years of Trout
Unlimited on the Credit River,
1978-1983

TROUT UNLIMITED:

The First Organized Volunteer Stewardship Group on the Credit River

- TU predates entry of CVC into fisheries management
- Background: learning the river, 1978-79
- First habitat work
 - Forks of the Credit Park, 1980-1982
 - Above Sligo Bridge, 1982-1983
- Reflections from 30 years

Late 1970s: limited official interest or knowledge regarding cold water streams of southern Ontario

- MNR responsible BUT
 - lacked expertise
 - Ill-informed of fish populations
 - a bit suspicious of user groups
- Fly fishers in particular had developed considerable lay knowledge of trout streams and desire to help with up to date management, especially on waters threatened by expansion of GTA
- TU Southern Ontario Chapter formed by mostly members of Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club who wanted to emphasize environmental action. Looked for opportunity to help.



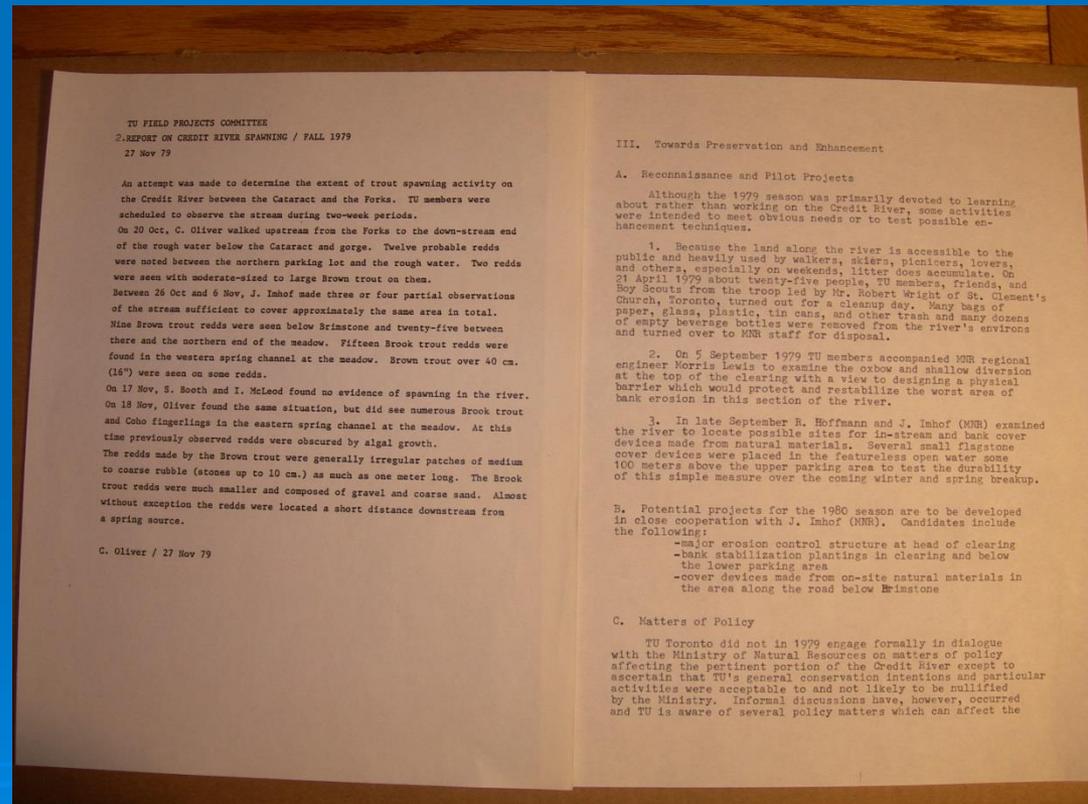
➤ 19
to

aract

- Base line data: map river, sample benthos, assess trout foods and trout populations
- Towards preservation and enhancement

1979 Gathering base line data

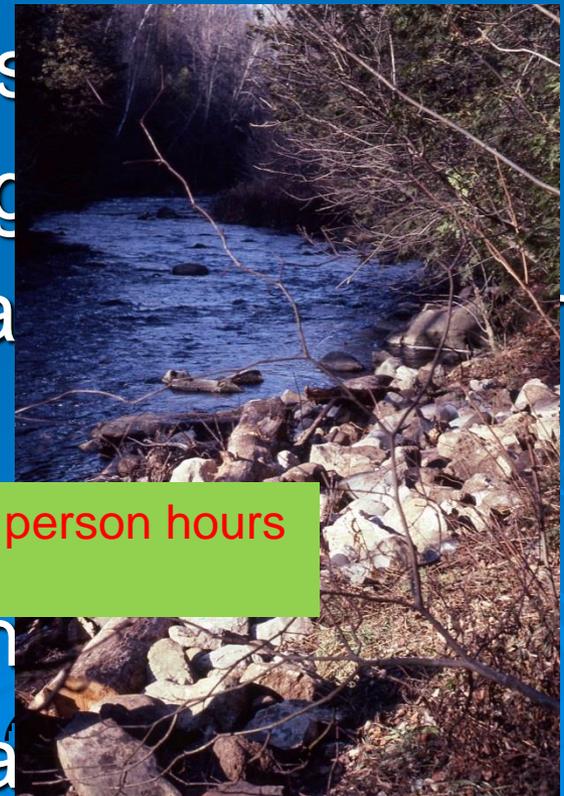
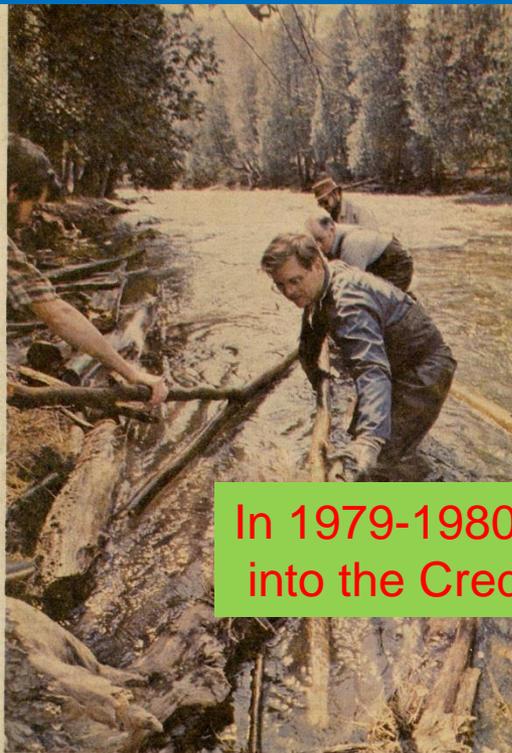
- At season's end, we'd established the presence of resident brown and brook trout in the Credit
- AND Jack Imhof became Maple district's first stream biologist.
- We could move toward action



Habitat Work: Forks of the Credit Park, 1980-1982

➤ Problem: lack of trout cover.

Solution: 'Trout house', 1980



In 1979-1980 TU put more than 700 volunteer person hours into the Credit above the Forks.

Cleaning the Credit

Members of Trout Unlimited, Toronto chapter were on the Credit River last Saturday making improvements on Mother Nature. The men and women of the club, along with a troop of Boy Scouts, were cleaning up the river in the Forks-Of-The-Credit area as well as building shelters along the river banks in an attempt to provide areas attractive to trout in the Credit. With fishing season starting midnigh this Friday the Credit River and conservation areas should be given a thorough going over by fishermen. Photo by Peter West.

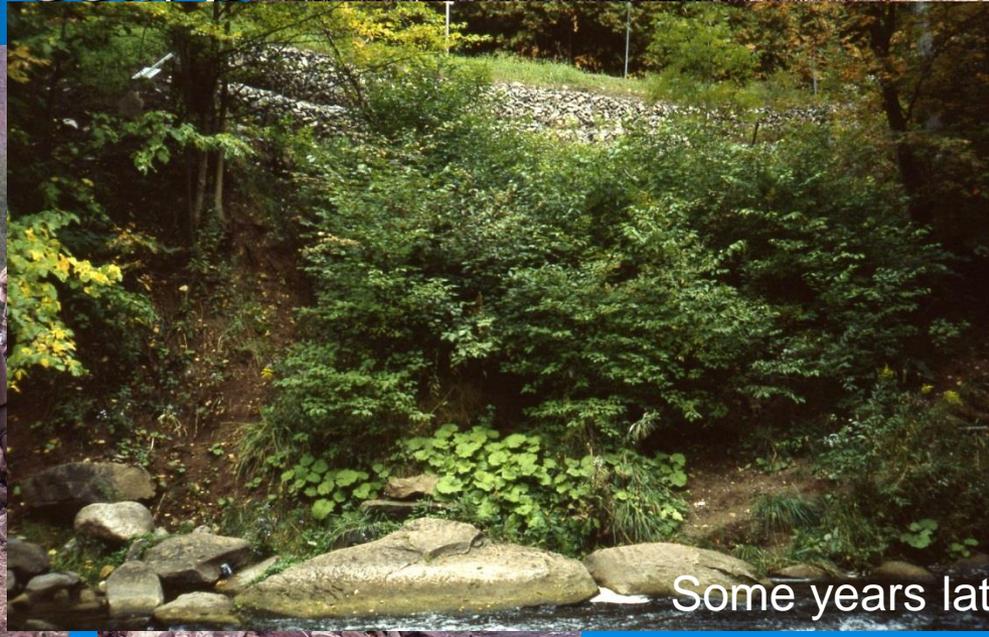
Habitat Work: Forks of the Credit Park, 1980-1982

➤ Problem: lack of trout cover.

Solution: 'Trout house', 1980

➤ Problem: erosion above Forks pool.

Solution: terracing, soil p



Some years later. . .

Habitat Work: Forks of the Credit Park, 1980-1982

- Problem
- Solution
- Problem
- Solution
- New
- Hand
- cam
- Problem



Jim

J.

V.

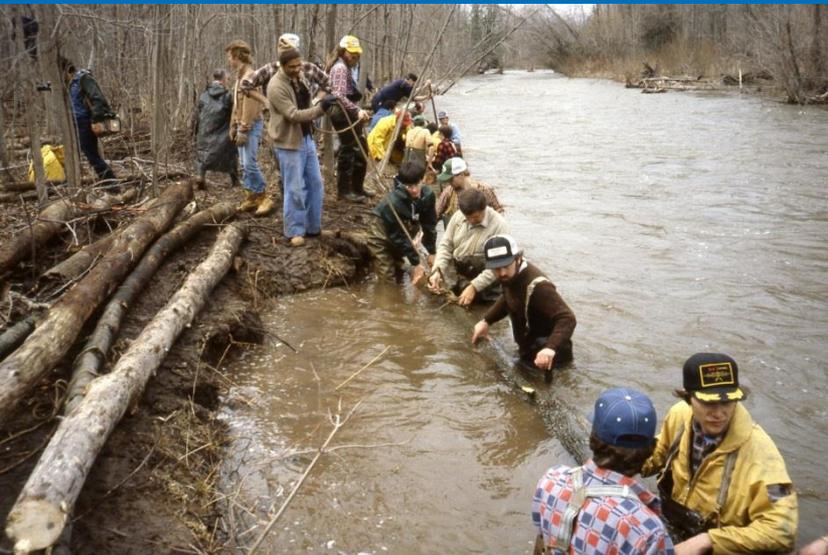
The next winter

Solution: Bank protection, regrading, planting – as joint TU-CVC project.

Habitat Work: Saving Sligo Bridge, 1982-1983

- River had eroded old bridge and threatened new, with risk to entire bank
- On private property where TU had negotiated access and habitat enhancement rights.
- Natural materials to stabilize bank and revegetate

1982 Saving Sligo Bridge . . . and the riverbank



1982 Saving Sligo Bridge . . . and the riverbank



Completed log wall



cleanup results

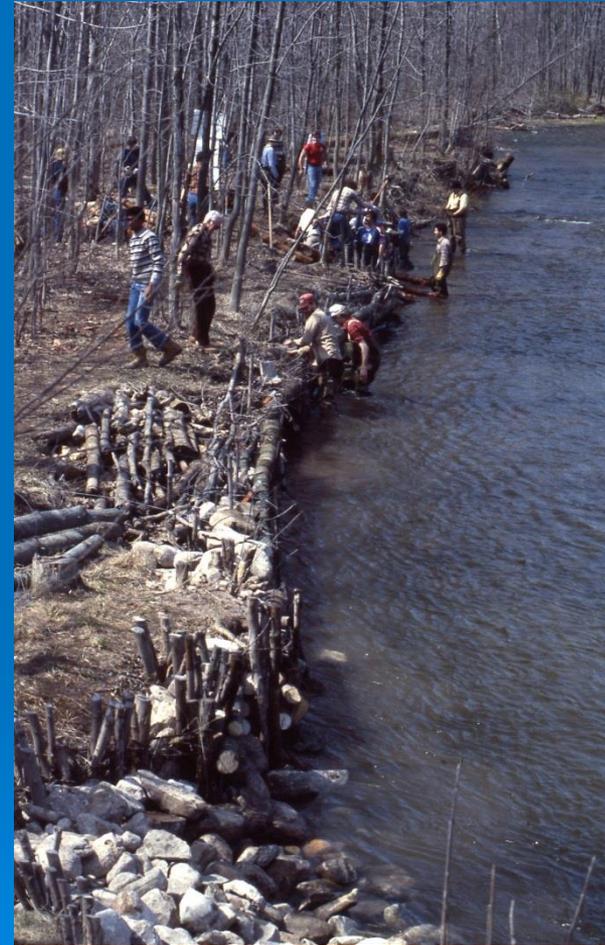


Only a stopgap

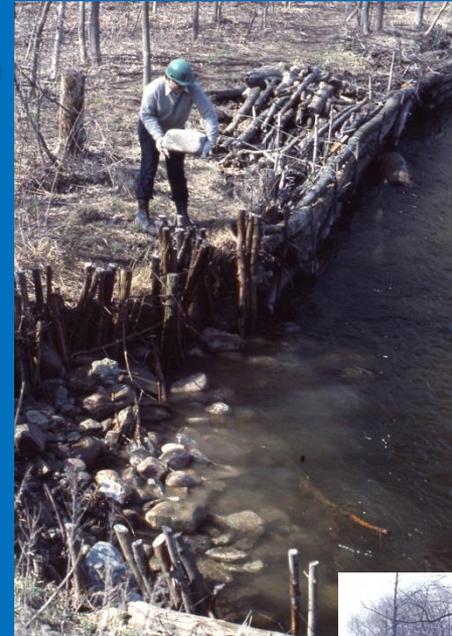


Later that same year

1983: Monitoring and maintenance at Sligo Bridge.



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1983: Monitoring and maintenance at Sligo Bridge.



Reflections from 30 years ago

- Volunteers need to establish credentials
- Proceed with caution
- Encourage collaboration
- Remember change is a constant
- Work with the river

**Only the river endures . . .
if we care for it.**



Over to Brian Greck,
current TU chapter
president, and the many
directions now being
taken for the Credit