

## **Presentation to Caledon Planning and Development committee re ICBL Renewal**

### **Greg Clark Chapter Trout Unlimited Canada**

Good afternoon, my name is Albert Carwana, I am the president of the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada. I want to thank you for allowing me to speak to you for a few minutes today re the ICBL renewal.

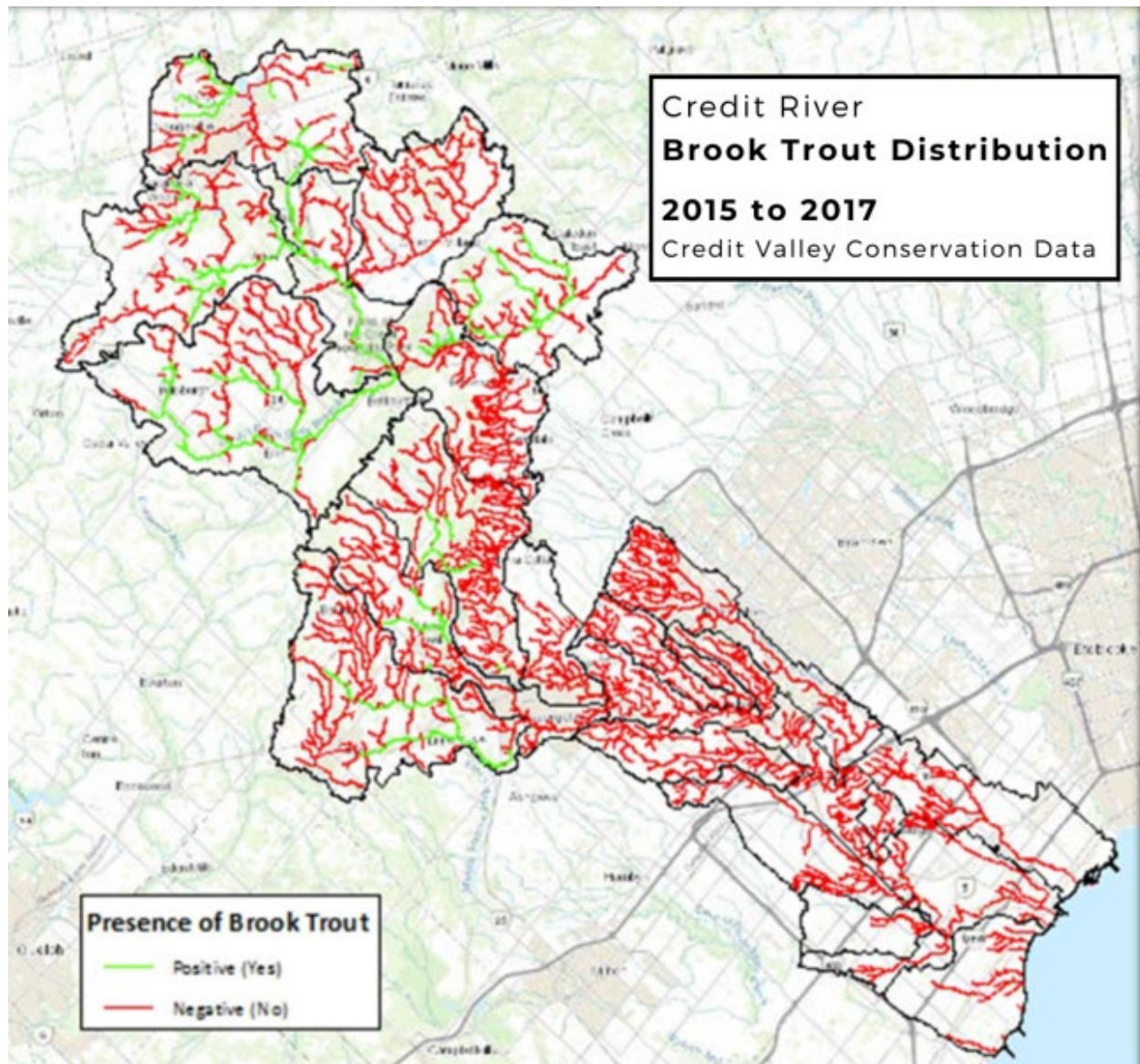
Our chapter has existed for 50 years, it is named for a gent named Greg Clark who wrote a humour column for the Toronto star up until the 70s and whose columns often focused on his angling adventures, many of which occurred in the credit river. During the 50 years our chapter has existed it has focused its conservation work on enhancing Brook Trout habitat in the upper credit river watershed. We are currently working on the section of the credit immediately south of Hwy 24, a project that was approved by the town of Caledon in 2020. We were doing work there this past weekend putting trout habitat structures into the river.

Some of our members are anglers, some like myself are not but we all are working to enhance the natural heritage of the river and we are all volunteers. For the most part our members do not live in Caledon but do spend a lot of time in the credit river watershed and as a result we may possess a unique perspective on the value of the credit river and that perspective may impact your view on how you should structure aggregate development guidelines as part of your official plan.

The credit river is a cold-water river system and these systems house unique life forms, brook trout being one of them. These river systems are cold because they are fed by cold ground water, ironically this cold ground water is a function of fissures in the very limestone that is so valued by the aggregate industry. There were many such river systems in south western Ontario but they have been disappearing, the result of all the pressures that rivers face in an increasingly urban environment with everything from dams to street runoff to deforestation impacting the quality and water temperature in these rivers. And when I say they have disappeared, of course I do not mean the river is no longer there but rather that they no longer function as healthy cold-water systems and the species that once lived there, no longer do.

In 1950 or so here was the distribution of brook trout in the credit river watershed:





You'll notice the dramatic change and the reduction of brook trout habitat in the credit river watershed. When we read the natural environment report prepared by CBM as part of their quarry application they stated:

"The majority of the fish species recorded in the Credit River are considered secure and common in Ontario"

Statements like this lack the historical perspective of the map that I have just shown you. What your community has in the upper credit river is not in fact "common" but rather increasingly rare in southwestern Ontario. But this unique habitat will only continue to exist if policies are put in place to protect it. Any development regulation that does not consider the impact the development will have on the credit river has the potential to degrade the river's ability to



function as a healthy cold-water system. This includes any change that alters the flow of ground water into the river and anything that impacts the quality or temperature of the water flowing into the river such as the dewatering of a gravel pit.

Our group spends a lot of time planting trees along the credit river. We are thinking long-term hoping these trees will soon shade and cool the river in a warming climate in the decades to come, knowing also that these trees will one day fall into the river and provide the in-stream habitat that trout need. We would encourage you to build aggregate development policies that think long term as well to ensure the brook trout are still here and if renewing the ICBL for another year allows you to properly consider these concerns then we would add our voice to encourage you to do so.

Thank you