Keeping the Credit viable goal of TUC

By JOHN STEWART Staff

Jim Wilson is a fisherman on a mission.

Credit River for a multitude of reasons: because it's good for the brook and rainbow trout that inhabit the river's upper reaches; because it's good for everyone who lives along the river to have cleaner water; and because it's shop in Toronto.

"A lot of my customers fish the detrimental to fish habitat. Credit and I want to give something back to the sport," says the Port Credit resident, who's also a Royal LePage in Mississauga.

becoming one of the anglers who Canada (TUC), a volunteer organization dedicated to improving water quality in the rivers they fish.

the Credit in Meadowvale Village. rehabilitate Peel's most spectacular watercourse.

"A lot of people don't realize that the Credit is one of the most fished, if not the most-fished, effort, river in Ontario," says Wilson.

Unlimited is a water conservation organization, not a fishing one, notes the national director.

After completion of the comprehensive Credit Fisheries process from the beginning, pro-salmon once teemed.

Management program in 1999, viding funds to hire staff to devel-TUC partnered with Ontario Streams, the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club and the Upper Credit Trout Club to begin reha-He wants to clean up the bilitating the critical upper portions of the river where trout done.

"Everything that starts up there affects everything downstream," notes Wilson.

Development over the years ronmental impacts. has denuded stream banks, good for business at his fly fishing increased water temperatures and promoted erosion which is

Over three years under the direction of biologists from Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and top commercial salesman at the Ministry of Natural Resources, TUC hopes to spend He's chosen to do that by \$150,000 to plant trees, stabilize river banks, and re-establish "rifare part of Trout Unlimited fle" sections which scour out silt and oxygenate the water.

Mississauga sponsors including the Petro-Canada Lubricants In an interview on the banks of plant and Royal Bank. The key to continuing the program is Wilson outlined TUC's efforts to attracting more corporate support.

years from Ontario's Trillium

CVC Biologist Bob Morris says Despite its name, Trout the work being done on the Credit simply wouldn't occur without the driving force of Trout Unlimited.

op a sound plan of attack.

Since CVC lost most of it funding from the Ontario government several years ago, it either finds new partners or work doesn't get

"We're hoping it makes a big difference," says Morris. While the work is good for fish, it also has myriad other positive envi-

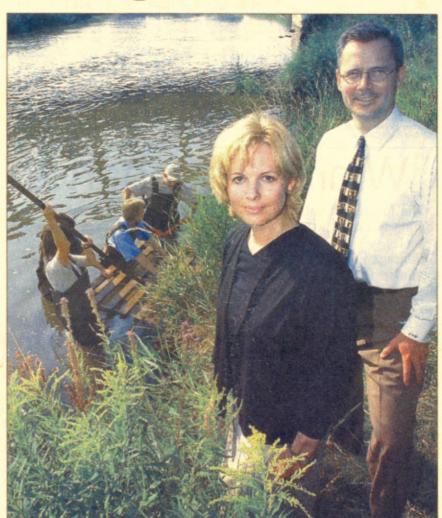
While many of the impacts are long-term (tree-planting may not shade the river for 20 years), others aren't. While doing fish survevs this summer, workers found five brook trout in the stretch of river they've started on. Three years ago, there were none there.

Starting a new chapter in the south end of Mississauga where he lives is also a priority for Wilson.

Trout Unlimited is always look-It has recruited a number of ing for more volunteers. It holds regular work days where families and students can get involved. The next scheduled event is a tree-planting day Oct. 13.

The problems with water quality on the Credit weren't created A \$70,000 grant over three in a day and they'll only be solved through a concerted long-term Corporation is boosting the effort by a agencies, governments and volunteers, says Wilson.

He's just happy that finally the will to get the work done seems to be in place. Now it's just a matter of finding the bodies and the dollars to finish the job of reviv-The group was critical in the ling the river where trout and Credit River.



Staff photo by Rob Beintema

Kathryn Maroun and Jim Wilson, directors of Trout Unlimited, at the