

Mayflyer

Donegal Trout Unlimited



October 2008 Vol. 38 # 5

What's Emerging

Committee Reports

Oktoberfest

October 15, 2008

Four Seasons Golf Club
Landisville

Trout & Trees
Brian Swistock

November Meeting

George Daniel
Team USA & TCO

Topic TBA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would first of all like to thank Glen Nephin for his dedicated service to DTU as President of the chapter. Glen, with his unique sense of humor, has served well and he has worked hard at the seriousness of our mission in Lancaster County. Glen spent a year learning the ropes from Bob Kutz, then winging it on his own for two rewarding years. Well, we have been extremely successful under his leadership winning awards, getting stream projects going as well as still growing the chapter. So Glen, you did it well and DTU says thanks for two great years.

Fortunately for me, DTU has a group of veterans available to help me perform hopefully as well as Glen during the next few years as I sit in his position. As we move on there are many aspects to this job in which I will need to call on every DTU member to help accomplish our goals. We at DTU now must wear many different hats because we are involved in so many varied aspects of conservation and community.

Moving forward, I would like to urge new and old members alike to get involved. We welcome any and all who can devote time every month to serving in some way above and beyond the call of duty. One of the greatest challenges for us is seeing that this chapter not only survives but grows and moves forward. Founded in 1968, DTU has a great history after 40 years and is well known in conservation circles locally and nationally so let's all work to continue doing the outstanding work we are known for.

TED DOWNS

PROGRAMS

OCTOBER

October 15, 2008 at 6:00 PM (Oktoberfest – Four Seasons Golf Club in Landisville)

Topic - "Trees & Trout"

Presenter - Brian Swistock, Extension Educator, Water Quality, Penn State

Last April (at a County Stewardship Roundtable) Russ Guthrie heard Brian talk about how a tree growing near a stream can protect trout from water runoff problems. You will not believe the difference a tree can make at keeping "trout" toxic levels of some chemicals out of the stream after a rain storm. If you want to feel good about our DTU's nursery program, don't miss this presentation by Dr. Swistock.

RUSS GUTHRIE - PROGRAMS

10 DAYS — 10 PRIZES — \$10

The last day to purchase your 10 Day/10 Prize/\$10 tickets is October 15th.

In addition, all ticket money and unsold tickets must be turned in by October 15. If you are mailing them back, they must be postmarked by October 15. Any tickets not turned in or postmarked by the October 15 deadline will **NOT** be eligible to claim a prize. There will be no exceptions. Please contact Bob Albright with any questions @ 717-468-4215.

Please mail unsold tickets and checks (payable to Donegal T.U.) to:

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OCTOBER

8th: 7 pm Board Meeting
15th: 6 pm Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Four Seasons Golf Club
Landisville, PA Oktoberfest

NOVEMBER

12th: 7 pm Board Meeting
19th: 7 pm Chapter Meeting

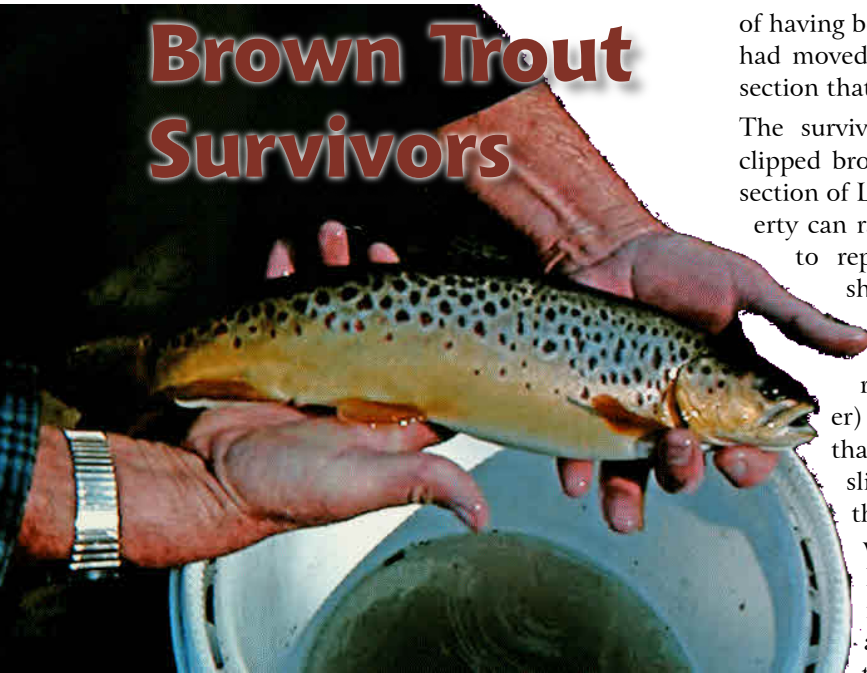
Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center George Daniel
of Team USA & TCO

DECEMBER

10th: 7 pm Board Meeting
17th: 7 pm Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center TBA

Brown Trout Survivors



Photos courtesy John Ward

Two fat, healthy brown trout were recovered in a 1300 ft section of Lititz Run by an electro-shocking crew headed up by Matt Koffroth on September 17, 2008. The biggest trout, a 16-inch brown was one of two fat, healthy females that had survived from the September 9, 2006 fingerling stocking of 1500 adipose-clipped fingerlings. Both were recovered in the same section of stream in which they were stocked. The second fin-clipped brown trout was 13 ½ inches in length and was also in great condition. These two trout were sexually mature and will undoubtedly try to spawn this fall, provided a willing and able male can find them. One smaller (10-inch) immature non-clipped brown was also captured but as evidenced by a slightly eroded dorsal fin, had emigrated from some other stocking. Four rainbow trout, ranging in length from 10 to 14 inches, were also captured, but were not in as good condition as the brown trout, and by comparison were much thinner. These rainbows were clearly the result

of having been stocked as “catchable-sized” and had moved in from either above or below the section that was shocked.

The survival and condition of the two fin-clipped brown trout is clear evidence that this section of Lititz Run, known as the Banta property can raise fingerling hatchery brown trout to reproductive size. During an earlier shocking by Matt in May, 2007, 14 fin-clipped brown trout ranging in length from 8 to 10 inches were recovered within the same (but shorter) section as this time. It is well known that hatchery trout are genetically slightly different from wild trout and that their survival is lower than that of wild trout. Offspring of fingerling hatchery trout that do survive and reproduce have much greater survival rates. That is why it is so desirable to establish self-sustaining trout populations wherever possible. The results of this experimental stocking indicate that it may very well be possible to accomplish this in Lititz Run.

The results of these two electro-shocking efforts show that the survival of the fin-clipped brown trout was exceptionally good over the first winter and that conditions were sufficient for some of these fish to survive over two successive summers. No young of the year of any trout species were discovered in this electrofishing survey. The stream-improvement work has performed very well, and a wide range of excellent habitat exists within the Banta property, including suitable spawning habitat. The existing structures and stream-side cover continue to improve conditions for year-round survival and potential for establishing a wild brown trout fishery. The Chapter should consider additional stocking of fin-clipped fingerlings in its on-going attempt to establish a self-sustaining brown trout fishery in this beautiful stream.

BOB BACHMAN

What's New At:

Recently, there have been numerous negative stories about the health of our local streams and creeks. I would like to address these issues and share the progress that is being made here in Lancaster County. Will this answer all your questions? Probably not. Hopefully it will put into perspective what we are facing in the coming years, if not decades for our local fishing holes.

As we all know Lancaster County has been, and still is, an agricultural Garden Spot in the Northeastern part of the United States. Pollution from agriculture has caused some of our waterways to become degraded, meaning that they are not fully achieving their intended uses. In the same respect, development pressure, stormwater runoff, point source pollution, and other types of pollution have also degraded our streams. This melting pot of pollutants has caused great damage to our precious water resources. The majority of this degradation occurred when early colonists settled here in Lancaster County. Some of our ancestors were less than stellar land stewards. You can see this from old aerial photography, satellite images, and written accounts. This is not saying we are not damaging our streams today. However, the regulations that govern activity by our local streams and floodplains are much more stringent and severely limit what can be done compared to the past. It has taken hundreds of years to impair Lancaster County streams with sediment, nutrients, trash, debris, etc. I believe that it will take just as long if not longer to get them back to where they were before we started.

A stream ecosystem is a fragile creature. A good analogy to use for a stream system would be that of a recipe. When you use a recipe you need to follow it carefully to ensure a tasty product. If the recipe calls for ¼ teaspoon milk would you add 3 gallons instead? Hopefully not. A stream system is very similar. Creeks and streams can handle

Lancaster County Conservation District

some pollution in amounts that the system can assimilate. If that pollutant load gets too large for the stream to control, the stream becomes degraded or, in the recipe analogy, unpalatable. This is where we are today. About 700 miles of our county's 1,400 miles of streams don't taste very good. Is this an easy thing to fix; NO! Will it take time to fix; you better believe it. Will we see it get better in our generation? I'm not sure.

We are a fast paced, get it done now, culture and we like to see things improve in the blink of an eye. Streams and creeks don't follow that same motto. Yes, they can do some amazing things given the right ingredients, but more often than not, time is the stream's best friend when it comes to rehabilitation.

This is not meant to be a doom and gloom article. We are making a difference with small conservation steps. Look throughout Lancaster County and you will see stream restoration projects, riparian buffer plantings, fish habitat improvements projects, stream cleanups, and other water resource enhancement ideas being implemented. Obviously funding, volunteers, willing property owners, and other factors are vital aspects of these improvements. Our farmers are making conservation strides as well. This is evident by looking at those old aerial photos that show large gullies in the fields, uncontrolled manure flowing to the streams, bare soil in the winter, and other issues. With over 5,000 farms in the county this will take time to change as well. Developers and municipalities are also getting more progressive in their planning efforts. Water conservation ideas are all around from green roofs, permeable pavements, and wetland detention basins. Once

again, the common theme is time to implement some of these new innovative practices.

The bottom line is that we have, and are continuing, to improve our local streams and creeks. Sure we are not seeing the water quality "numbers" indicating this improvement to date. I am not saying all is perfect, because I think we all realize our streams are in peril. What I am saying is that water resource protection has been taking place for over 30 years and is continuing today at or above its current level. Significant stream improvements we did 30 years ago or today may not show water quality improvement numbers for another 30 to 100 years. Does that mean we are not making progress? I would say no. We need to continue to fight the good conservation fight. Plant more streamside trees, conduct more stream restoration projects, continue to improve fish habitat, pick up trash along our water bodies, and continue to be good stewards of the natural resources we have. We may not be the ultimate beneficiaries of all our labor but, we can hope that the next generation will.

If you would like to learn more about our local watersheds and the issues facing them I encourage you to attend the 6th Annual Lancaster/Lebanon County Watershed Forum on Saturday October 25th from 9 AM -Noon at the Quentin UCC Church at the intersection of Route 419 and 72. This is a free event where important watershed topics will be discussed with those in the conservation field and volunteers implementing water resource projects. For more information or to register, visit; www.lancasterwatersheds.org

MATT KOFROTH

Corner

Volunteer

Wanted: Volunteer to feed the trout in the Millport Conservancy. No experience required and we will train. Part time only, but no pay or benefits except the volunteer will get to know each trout by name. Interested volunteers can contact Glen Nephin or Ted Downs

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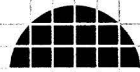
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*Thank you, DTU,
for your continued
support and volunteers!*

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Fly of the Month

Knickers



Courtesy Chad McPartland & FFF

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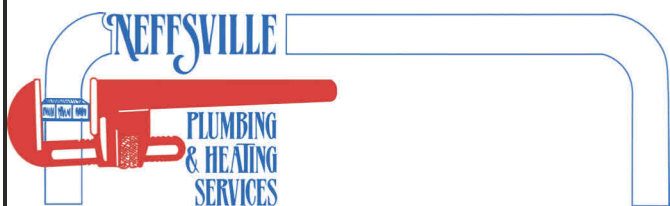
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MATERIALS LIST

Hook: Dai-Riki 135, or equal, sizes 10-16
 Weight: Brass bead
 Thread: Black Uni 8/0
 Rib: Medium amber v-rib
 Body: Gold Mylar tinsel
 Dubbing: Olive brown, Hairline Ice Dubbing
 Herl: Brown ostrich
 Hackle: Hungarian partridge
 Collar: Peacock herl

TYING STEPS

1. Pinch barb
2. Put on bead. An easy way to do it is hold the hook in pliers, and scoop it through the beads. He learned this from Britt Phillips.
3. Attach thread on front third of hook, wind thread base rearward to half way around bend and spiral thread forward stopping a bead's width back from bead.
4. Attach v-rib on top of hook tightly, pull v-rib to stretch it and wind thread over it to past the bend.
5. At back of hook tie in ostrich herl, dubbing loop and tinsel. Wind thread forward stopping a bead's width from bead.
6. Wrap tinsel forward, secure and trim. Make a sparse dubbing loop and spiral it forward in wide open turns. You only want to tone down the flashy tinsel. Trim excess material.
7. Pull ostrich herl forward, make one wrap of v-rib behind herl and one in front of it to lock herl in. Spiral v-rib forward leaving space between wraps. Secure last wrap with four turns of thread. Trim excess. Leave plenty of room behind bead for more material.
8. Spiral ostrich herl forward in the gaps of v-rib, secure and trim excess.
9. Prepare the hackle by pulling off any fluffy fibers, and secure to hook by the stem so barbs curve toward rear of hook when wrapped, make 1½ turns of hackle, secure and trim excess.
10. Attach peacock herl, wrap forward a turn or two against the bead, secure and trim excess.
11. Whip finish head, trim thread and add a drop of head cement if you want the added security.

Time to Head East

I started the day greeting the Sunday morning sun on the beach just north of Sea Bright NJ. The wind was a just right, over my left shoulder at about 10 miles per hour. The ocean looked more like a lake, perfect conditions to entice bait, and hopefully predators to the edge of the sea.



It's a good steep beach that requires a hike to get to. There's plenty of room to back cast without worrying about hooking someone passing behind you, plus if you happen to luck into first light fish you're less likely to get mobbed, a common occurrence during a beach blitz in the most populous state in the union.

I'd fallen into an easy rhythm of long, effortless casts and slow retrieves, watching the wake of my popper cut a V across the

sea as the sun appeared along the horizon, periodically checking the fisherman up and down for a bent rod. Hoping for stripers before first light or blues just as you could see, maybe albies would make a run along the beach just as the full ball of the sun cracked the horizon. No luck by 8 AM. With no signs of bait, no splashes, no bent rods, it was time to move on.

I stopped and checked the beach every mile or so with binoculars as I worked my way south, sipping fresh coffee and listening to talk radio. Somewhere north of Monmouth Beach I saw what I was looking for about a mile to the south. I could make out clouds of birds and boats seemingly in the surf line. Two more stops and I was at the center of the action.

The center of the action was packed with spinmen. Blues, some as big as 3 feet, were stacked on the sand behind them. The surface of the sea in front of them looked like a thousand kids splashing in a pool. I made my way down the beach a quarter mile or so from the main body of the blitz (smart move if you expect to fly fish without hooking a human, plus you've got a better shot at stripers) and started to fish.

Mid-sized bunker, 8" or so (AKA Menhaden: babies - peanuts, midsize - cupcakes), were taking refuge in the last 6" of water before dry land started. Blues and the occasional leg-long striper, were cruising by in packs of threes and fours. Clearly visible in the pool clear water, you could have spit on their backs.

My first cast, more getting line off the reel, foul-hooked a bunker at my feet. He didn't come off on the back cast and was eaten, along with my fly, by a gator blue about 10' in front of me as soon as he hit the water. Not technically a fly-caught fish but welcome none the less as I watched my fly line and backing disappear in a blur. Big fish may feed in shallow water but they freak when hooked in it.

I had to work for the rest of the fish. They would follow a fast-retrieved big fly in from the deeper water and either turn away at your feet or turn and take just as their backs started to come out of the water. One large striper had her mouth open attempting to suck in the fly when she saw me and turned just short of the beach, missing the fly, kicking up water and sand and leaving me momentarily shaking.

It was one of those rare instances where stopping the fly just short of the beach would often draw a strike.

They were some of the largest blues I'd ever seen. I'd later hear of a few 18-pound bluefish and 30-pound stripers that were landed that day.

It was a good ride home; Eagles game on the radio, thoughts of the blitz I'd witnessed fresh in my mind.

WHEN:

The beach fishing summer doldrums start to end sometime around the first full moon of September. The September/October mullet run fills the bays and oceanfront with dependable bait supply. Mullet are followed by baby, midsize, and adult bunker from mid October though November, with spearing and rain fish, filling in the gaps at any time. Sandeels and herring usually arrive inshore in late November into December most years. The back bays fish well until about mid-November, cooling quicker than the ocean front which can fish well through December.

Stay home on a south wind; don't go for a few days. The water can drop 10 degrees in as many hours, the surf can turn chocolate and the fish go off the feed big time. Same goes for a tropical storm passing a hundred miles offshore; big surf is tough to fly fish.

Go beach fishing (anywhere on the coast) if the wind has blown west/northwest for a few days, the harder the better, a 35 mph west wind is not too strong. The west wind cleans and flattens the surf and draws in bait and predators. Plus you can cast more line than you can buy. The first few hours of an east/northeast wind can put fish at your feet but this can be tough to time.

Fish Sandy Hook Bay on an east/northeast wind, either out of a rented dingy or from the beach. Chances are you'll be fishing in the rain. The ocean may have 6 foot waves but the protected side of Sandy Hook will be calm and may be exploding with fish. The rule of thumb if a nor'easter is coming is to fish before, during, but not after. Don't fish Sandy Hook Bay out of a dingy if the wind is northwest at more than 10 miles per hour, too much chop to be any fun.

WHAT:

Blues have held up well the last few years from September to early December. There have been some epic beach blitzes due to the return of bunker in the last few years.

Stripers seem to be the most manipulated species on the planet, coming back from threatened to averaging 27.95 inches (you could kill them when they got to 30 inches). They seemed (due to current regulations) to have settled out to averaging 24 inches or so. I miss the 15 to 20

pounders that used to invade Sandy Hook Bay each fall. There are still nice fish around, just fewer of them.

False Albacore, Bonito, and Spanish Mackerel are hit and miss from the open beaches. North Beach on Sandy Hook may be your best shot at a beach Albie from late September through October, a few days of west wind is all it takes to draw Albies close. The north jetty on Island Beach State Park can also be a hot spot although Albies have been rare there the last two years.



WHERE:

Use Google Earth to over fly the coast. Starting from the north:

Sandy Hook is a 7 mile spit of land with the mouth of the Shrewsbury River and Sandy Hook Bay on one side and the open Atlantic on the other. The Shrewsbury discharges huge amounts of bait each fall drawing fish inside until around Thanksgiving. The ocean beaches can light up with fish at any time. Fly fisherman may want to concentrate on areas away from easy access points to avoid hooking people. Park at the toll booth (when you first enter the park) and walk south or hike into north beach for more elbow room.

Renting a dingy and fishing the inside of Sandy Hook is one of my favorite ways to spend a rainy day from October to late November. I've had 50 fish days when conditions were right (bait and something to eat it).

From the Hook south to jetty row are fairly steep beaches that are hit or miss depending on bait movements. Access during the fall is usually not a problem (unless the day is very nice), just look for fellow angler's vehicles.

Jetty row, from Monmouth Beach to Brick Beach offers interesting structure that often holds bait and fish. Korkers are a must, plus a fishing partner just in case. Beginners should start with the flat-topped jetty rather than the broken down remnants. It's not worth a broken leg; well maybe it is if Albies are rounding the tip every two minutes like clockwork.

Sea Side Park and Sea Side Heights often hold fish. One stop worth a look is the casino pier in Sea Side Park. An ocean hole (an area of deep water right next to the beach) often develops around the pier, holding bait and predators.

Island Beach State Park is where my knowledge of the Jersey coast ends. There is a good walk-in access as soon as you enter the park (Two Bit road) if you want some room to fish. The off road vehicle access (\$50 per day/\$200 season for a permit) starts at Gilkens and runs all the way to the north jetty. Expect a crowd if fish are around, especially on the weekends.

The influence of the north jetty extends about seven miles to the north; the beaches get less steep as you make your way south towards the north jetty (which guards the exit of Barnegat bay). This can mean slim water at low tide. I prefer to catch the incoming tide when I work the beaches rather than running out of water.

The north jetty at Island Beach State Park is one of the best money spots on the coast. There seem to always be a few willing blues or stripers around. Bait often holds in the pocket between the jetty and the beach. There's ample room for anglers most of the time and the flat top is not too bad to fish from. Be careful, I once witnessed a coast guard rescue of an angler that had been swept off the jetty during high seas.

SOME NOTES ON CONSERVATION:

Imagine if there were something that would eat the algae (before it dies and decomposes taking oxygen with it) that grows prolifically in the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean due to excess nutrients. There is, menhaden (bunker), but we kill most of them for use in everything from dog food to Omega 3.

New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council passed a law to not allow the fishing of menhaden, by any method, for purpose of reduction, in state waters. The results have been tremendous, the bunker are back big time (literally mile long schools) with red tides reduced to almost non-existent.

It would be political suicide for anyone in the bay states to suggest that the harvest be reduced. Perhaps the bay states should look inward for solutions and stop killing the filter feeders (menhaden, clams, oysters). The bay should be paved with menhaden. Where there is something to eat there is something to eat it (unless you kill them all).

RESOURCES:

Sandy Hook Bay boat rental: Schupps landing 732-872-1479, workmanlike dingy rentals (\$80/day) to late model center consoles (\$200/day)

Google Earth: If you don't have this free program get it, you can "pre-fish" areas without leaving your desk: <http://earth.google.com/>

Betty and Nick's Bait and Tackle: Island Beach State Park fishing reports updated daily, plus a nice friendly place to grab breakfast and info at 4 AM before hitting the beach:

<http://www.bettyandnicks.com/fish.shtml>

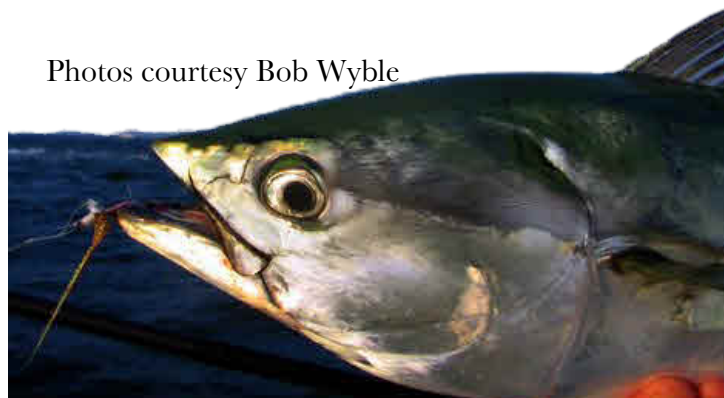
Shore Catch Guide Service: reports and perhaps the best inshore beach and boat guides on the Jersey coast: <http://shorecatch.com/wp/>

Surf Reports: Know how big the waves are going to be before you go:

http://www.surflife.com/surf-report/island-beach-state-park-northeast_5177/

MARK CELEBUSKI

Photos courtesy Bob Wyble





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We're Moving !

Beginning with the November Meeting (November 19), Donegal Trout Unlimited will no longer meet at Quality Inns & Suites, but will move to the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, very near Park City Center. This move was approved by the board in September. This should be a much nicer venue for our meetings, as well as being centrally located. It is hoped the move will make it easier for more of the membership to attend meetings.

If approaching from west of Lancaster: take Rt 30 East to Rt 72 (1st Exit Past Park city)

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If approaching from east of Lancaster: take Rt 30 West to Rt 283 West to Rt. 72. Turn left on Rt. 72 going South under the Rt. 30 bypass.

Turn left between Conestoga Marine and Jones Honda dealership.

These maps may also help:

Everyone is encouraged to come and join us in November and see the new "digs".

