

For Immediate Release

## **Truax Dam Partially Removed, Site Rehabilitated to a More Natural State**

**Brockton, ON**, October 15, 2019 – The partial removal of the Truax Dam on the Saugeen River in Walkerton is now complete, helping local fish populations thrive as the area returns to a more natural state.

Spearheaded by the Lake Huron Fishing Club in partnership with the Municipality of Brockton and Bruce Power, the partial dam removal took seven weeks, from August 7 to September 30, 2019. The project had several goals:

- to help migrating fish on the Saugeen River
- to improve river access for anglers, kayakers and canoeists
- to reduce safety concerns with the aging Truax Dam structure
- to improve water quality and create a healthier ecosystem for fish to thrive in that part of the river.

The project was fully funded by Bruce Power as part of its environmental stewardship program. The engineering services for the partial removal were led by Jeff Graham from GSS Engineering Consultants Ltd.

Before the construction, the Truax Dam was in need of repair and posed a safety concern for the Municipality. It also acted as a barrier to fish migrating upstream to spawn. Following public consultations, Brockton Council authorized partial removal of the dam.

Walkerton is a prime destination in Southern Ontario for anglers and fishing enthusiasts, and it's a magnet for paddlers enjoying of the Saugeen River.

The Truax Dam was originally built to supply water power for Walkerton's first sawmill. It was reconstructed in 1919.

A century later, a portion of the concrete structure on the south side of the river remains, serving as a public space overlooking the river in all four seasons.

"We are very pleased with the results of this project, which will free the fish, rehabilitate the area, and provide further enjoyment to anglers, canoeists, residents and visitors all who love the Saugeen River. We are grateful to the Lake Huron Fishing Club, Brockton staff and GSS Engineering for overseeing the Truax Dam project, and to our generous partner Bruce Power for funding it," said Brockton Mayor Chris Peabody.

For more information, please contact:

Sonya Watson  
Chief Administrative Officer  
[swatson@brockton.ca](mailto:swatson@brockton.ca)  
519-881-2223, Ext. 126