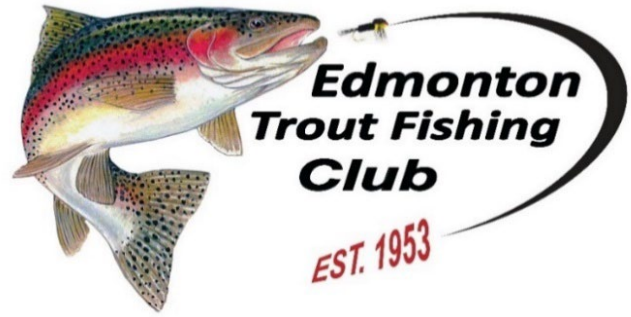


FLYCASTER

DECEMBER 2024



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **2025 Meetings – AGM 7:00pm January 14th** then 2nd Tues of every month through to May – details in the January Newsletter
- **Saturday February 8, 2025, 9:00am - 4:30pm**
George Daniel Seminar at MacEwan University. George is a former competitor and coach for Fly Fishing Team USA, author of many books about about fly fishing. He is currently director of the Fly-Fishing program at Pennsylvania State University. Early bird tickets just \$60 available on [Eventbrite](#)
- **March 20-23 - Boat and Sportsmen's Show** - we will need volunteers and materials for display. Please let us know if you're willing to help out for a few hours at our booth at the Edmonton Expo Centre - etfcnews@gmail.com

ETFC NEWS:

- **Aerators** - are running and Dec 9th and 10th are the tentative dates for installing the fencing around open water and putting up the signage. **Volunteers needed** to help with the work - if you're able to, please let us know (with a phone number) at - etfcnews@gmail.com Gaetan will get back to you to confirm details. No reply yet from the Village re paying the power costs!
- **Dock Repairs and Water Levels** - no point in making repairs until the spring when water levels can be assessed. We may need to completely reconfigure the dock to extend the section currently stranded on dry land. By that time we should also have the parts needed to properly install the Roller Dock
- **Fall Property Clean-Up** - wasn't needed this year as our neighbours have kindly kept the grass down and picked up any garbage.
- **MEMBERSHIP - URGENT!** Your membership in ETFC **expires on December 31st**. Some of us, in the past, have put off renewing until we start thinking of open-winter fishing again in the spring, but there's a particularly good reason to **do it now!** Your membership in ETFC includes membership in the Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) which, among other benefits, provides you with year-round insurance coverage. And

that's not just for when you're fishing Spring Lake. It applies when you're recreational angling anywhere in Canada, when hiking, bird watching, fish stocking, building boat ramps, building and installing docks, when involved in fish and wildlife research, aeration, invasive species control, nature outdoors and bow hunting, . . . and more. That insurance also expires on Dec 31st. So, **please, renew your membership now** so that we can register you with AWF before the end of 2024 and thereby get you the insurance coverage you may need! **Here's how: [ETFC-2025-Membership-Application-and-Renewal-form](#)** Any questions - please email Jacqueline, ETFC's membership director communications@edmontontrout.ca

FISH and FISHING:

- **Spring Lake stocking** - with the completion of the renovations at the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery, Environment and Protected Areas was able to stock 452,923 more trout around the province in 2024 than it did in 2023. The Spring Lake stocking this fall was 10,000 rainbow and 1,627 tiger trout, up from just 4,507 rainbows (no tigers) in the fall of '23. They're little guys (well actually they're triploid) but with aeration and a healthy supply of midges, minnows, nymphs and daphnia they should grow to catchable size over the winter and into summer. Hopefully there will also be a healthy population of rainbow, tiger and brown trout joining them in late May/early June 2025. No info available on the carp population - just hope they're not on anyone's stocking list



- **Christmas Sale** has started and runs to Dec 24th. The 10% discount that the store offers ETFC members does not apply to sale items – the sale prices are even lower! And Randy at the West End store tells me that the Black Friday sale items and the Christmas sale items will be different this year. Many are not aware that the Fishin' Hole website also has some interesting articles - here's an excerpt, for example, from one by local fishing guide and author **Fred Noddin**:

Ice Fishing with Flies:

“The most consistent performer is using smaller bead head nymphs, like the **bead head prince nymph**, the bead head pheasant tail, the bead head shrimp, and the bead head zug (where you can find them). Slowly, very slowly jigged, and sometimes just allowed to sit still, trout will happily come over and slurp them up. For presentation though, I pull the knot tied to the hook over towards the point of the hook and this little adjustment allows the fly to hang horizontally, that, I believe, catches me more fish.”



and

There's also another article on the Fishin' Hole site, this one by Kade McCormick, that might get you thinking of and planning for next summer: [Night Fishing for Trophy Trout](#) Suggest you wait for warmer weather to try this though.



- **Time to tune up your ice auger** from *Mike's Reel Repair* – “as these machines aren't all that complicated, anyone with a bit of basic skills can do wonders with maintenance.

Blades As blades dull, it takes more power to drive them through the ice. More power = more gas or more battery use. Not to mention the wear on the motor and transmission. Keep blades properly sharp and they'll make your day easier.

Starting If you still have gas from last season in the tank and didn't add any stabilizer to it, dump it out and add fresh, clean, winter gas (if available). Gas collects water and we don't want that. When mixing gas and oil, use a premium oil. Cheap oil can have undesired effects when burnt. Why take a chance over a dollar difference...the stuff goes a long way anyway. Don't cheap out.

Check the starter rope for frays. If you see any, change it out. If the rope doesn't return all the way into the recoil, it usually means the recoil is shot. These can be purchased as a bolt on item and are easily replaceable.

Spark Plugs As there is only one spark plug for your ice auger it makes it super easy to change the plug out. Check manufacturer specific specs, or the proper plug number will be written on the plug itself. Again, these are an inexpensive, throw away maintenance item that should be checked at the very least as part of a maintenance schedule.

Air Filter While commonly overlooked, this item can bog down your auger and cause it to lose power if dirty. These air cleaner elements are usually made of foam and can be blown out with compressed air or just replaced as an inexpensive maintenance item. The foam collects oil and dust and can get gummed up.

If you're running an electric auger, check the blades and go fishing!”

Clothing for Winter Fishing – some advice from [troutUNIVERSITY](#)

Jackets -A good jacket is the cornerstone of your winter fly fishing outfit. Look for a waterproof, breathable, and insulated fishing jacket to keep you warm and dry.

Vests - excellent for organizing and carrying essential gear within arm's reach. Opt for an insulated fishing vest for winter.

Waders – you need reinforced insulation and superior durability. Fish longer, stay warmer.

Base Layers - Moisture-wicking and thermal properties are key factors to consider when choosing base layers.

Beanie Hats or Brimmed Hats with Insulation - a beanie is essential to keep your head warm, as you can lose a lot of heat from the top of your head.

Heated Gear - heated socks and hand warmers can provide that extra level of comfort.

Cleated Wading Boots, or if you don't have them, buy a pair of Korkers - removable ice cleats that can be attached to the soles of your boots for better grip.



Planning for fishing trips 2025 - Here's a suggestion from ETFC VP Ron Storrier, but only if you like adventure and carry bear spray! **Chester lake** is a small mountain lake in Kananaskis Country located about the midpoint of Smith Dorrien trail. Starting from the west side of the large parking lot ,(past the outhouse)you follow a large trail for approximately 4.6 km. Unfortunately, the first approx. 3-3.5 km is uphill. (Once you come up on small clearings the trail flattens out.)

The lake holds both Cutthroat and Northern Dolly Varden. The lake opens July 1 and ends Oct 31. A bait ban is in place. You are allowed 2 cutts (under 30cm) and 2 NDV . The lake isn't stocked as the trout spawn in the creek

There is a trail around the lake allowing you to spot and stalk. The trout readily take small dry flies. If you plan on fishing on a hot day or the weekend, a belly boat will allow you some uncrowded fishing

Remember this is grizzly country and those holes you see as you approach the lake are from the grizzlies!



Newsletter – next one coming on or before January 1st, 2025 - suggestions, requests, questions, and contributions needed and always welcomed at etfnews@gmail.com - Won't use your name unless you indicate otherwise meanwhile:



PSL/