



# Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society Newsletter

ovas.ca

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society (OVAS) is a non-profit, educational, and recreational organization. It has four main objectives:

1. To further the study of all forms of aquatic life
2. To promote interest, exchange ideas, and distribute information concerning the hobby
3. To encourage breeding and displaying of aquatic life
4. To work towards the conservation of endangered species

## Membership Rates

Adult	\$20
Family	\$30
Junior	\$7

## Upcoming Events

Sep. 25 – monthly meeting  
Oct. 23 – monthly meeting  
Nov. 27 – monthly meeting

## Welcome Message

Welcome new and returning members to the 2006/2007 season! Our 52<sup>nd</sup> year of operation promises to be an interesting one for the club with new members, a new executive committee and several new and not-so-new programs and initiatives to be on the lookout for.

Our executive this year includes both new and returning executives and is the largest group of volunteers in recent club history. Already, there have been lots of new ideas brought forward and a renewed zeal and enthusiasm toward making the club as successful as ever.

Our online presence, [www.ovas.ca](http://www.ovas.ca), is also growing by leaps and bounds. Our website upgrade just prior to the end of last season has received tons of positive feedback over the summer. The work isn't done for our new webmaster though, as new features and changes are still in the works for the upcoming months. The website continues to prove that OVAS is more than just a fish club; it's a community of people who want to share, learn and interact more than once a month at our general meetings.

Last year, our revamped Breeders Award (BAP) and Aquatic Horticulturalist Award (AHAP) Programs already started to reap rewards. The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs (CAOAC) has issued 3 certificates to current club members, and we look forward to an awards ceremony at our September meeting to recognize their accomplishments. CAOAC only issued awards to 3 clubs this year, and of the 10 people recognized, 3 were OVAS members. With the success of our plant contest and the new OVAS BAP and AHAP, I'm sure we will be seeing even more members qualifying for OVAS and CAOAC awards this season.

Of course, we can't forget our renewed focus on our newsletter. Because of our newsletters, we were able to confirm OVAS has been around for over fifty years and it is only through our newsletters that we can continue to pass on the heritage and history of this club to future generations of fish keepers in the Ottawa area.

We hope you enjoy all the club has to offer this year.

**Your Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society Executive**

# HOW TO BRING YOUR FISH TO THE CLUB AUCTION

by Howard Norfolk

*Abridged*

See Original at [Aquarticles.com](http://Aquarticles.com)

## How do you regard the fish you are bringing to the club auction?

- They are nuisances using up space in your tanks and you'll be glad to get rid of them. It would also be nice to make some extra cash by selling them.
- They are living creatures whose fate rests entirely in your hands. They are about to have the most stressful day of their lives, and you hope they will go safely to a good new home.

Without getting overly sentimental, perhaps if you lean towards the second attitude your fish will be happier, their new owner will get more enjoyment from them, and, deep down, you will be more satisfied.

So with these thoughts in mind, consider the following when taking fish to be sold at the club auction:

1. Do your regular partial water changes a day or two before the auction. You don't want your friends testing your water and finding it in its usual disgusting state, do you? Check that all the fish in the tank(s) are healthy and free of any hint of disease.
2. Acquire some suitable fish bags. Food or sandwich bags are usually too thin, and Ziploc bags come open too easily and will not be allowed in the auction. Perhaps your best source is to beg or buy some bags from your favourite aquarium store.
3. Catch the fish with as little stress as possible, and carefully place them in your bag, together with enough of their own water to fill the bag about one quarter full. There should be enough water to cover the fish when the bag is on its side, but otherwise oxygen is more important than water. A little "Stress Coat" or similar conditioner could be added to the water.
4. Fill the bag with air. Don't blow it up like a balloon, but rather keep your mouth a short distance from the bag, so that you fill it with oxygenated air rather than your own expelled carbon dioxide. Alternatively, use an air pump with hose to fill the bag.
5. Fasten the bag securely. If the bag is long enough you may be able to tie a knot in the bag itself. Otherwise twist the top, double it over, and use a rubber band, like they do in the pet stores. Take extra care over this – you may not be as good at it as the pet store people, and your bag will be getting a lot more handling than theirs do. Do not use metal twist ties - they can burst yours or other people's bags. Make the bag quite taut like a balloon – this will make a small amount of water sit better on the auction table, and will help to avoid the possibility of fish becoming trapped in the corners of the bag.
6. Place the first bag inside a second bag, upside down, and fasten the second bag securely. This will insure against damage and leakage, and will round out the corners of the first bag.
7. Before using the second bag, detail the contents clearly, using a felt pen (or perhaps a sticky label). Write low down on the bag so that your writing is not obscured when you fasten it. Put the same information on both sides of the bag so that viewers don't have to turn it over on the auction table. Put as much information on the bag as is appropriate – the common and Latin names of the fish, how many fish, their size, sexes, and so on.

You'll probably be in a rush catching and bagging fish on the day of the auction - so consider doing the writing part the evening before.

## HOW TO BRING YOUR FISH TO THE CLUB AUCTION

*continued*

8. Should your fish be a species or variety that is rarely seen, you should definitely provide the Latin name, and might write a short note as to their characteristics ("community", "carnivorous", "killifish", or whatever), and the aquarium conditions they prefer – or you could give the auctioneer this information before the sale.

If the fish are uncommon, some really considerate people take the trouble to attach computer print-outs or photocopied information about them. This is much appreciated by purchasers (and the fish!).

9. Extra large fish need extra large bags - they will suffocate in a bag that is too small. Fish with spines (including cichlids and plecos) have been known to burst their bags. They are best brought in a glass or plastic container, or at least with their bag contained in a bucket.
10. Take the bags to the auction in an insulated container – a polystyrene box or a "cooler". Whether the temperature outside or in your car is warmer or colder, this will help stabilize the temperature of the fish water. Hopefully the auction room will be at a suitable temperature - if not, leave your fish in the insulated container as long as possible.
11. It is very stressful for fish to be lifted and examined dozens of times when on the auction tables (and at some auctions this is not allowed). Make sure your content information is clearly visible, so that people who don't want "guppies" won't have to lift them to find out what they are. The more details you give, the less they will have to be lifted. If bags with the same contents are placed beside each other and labelled the same, each one will have to be lifted fewer times.
12. After the sale, should your fish be uncommon, seek out the buyers and tell them a little more about the fishes' characteristics and care.

Fish that are wild caught are referred to as **WC**

Fry from WC parents are known as **G1** (one generation inbred)

Fry from G1 parents are known as **G2**

If you have two parents of unknown lineage, they can simply be referred to as **Tank Raised**

Fry from any set of Tank Raised parents are known as **F1** (one generation inbred)

Fry from F1 parents are known as **F2**

### **Breeders Award Program (BAP) Aquatic Horticultural Awards Program (AHAP)**

Hey all, and welcome to another season of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society. Last year was a big one for the Breeder's Award Program, with the creation of a new format and some prizes.

The first OVAS members to reach Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs award levels in club history were Cassandra DeSouza, Basic Merit Award, and Jody McManus, Basic Merit Award.

As well, there was OVAS' first Aquatic Horticulturist Award Program winner, Sean Kettle, and the creation of the Breeder Directory.

I look forward to another year of achievements for OVAS, and continuing to grow the program in new and interesting directions.

For more detailed information on BAP and AHAP see the OVAS website or contact me via email at [bap@ovas.ca](mailto:bap@ovas.ca)

Matthew Séguin  
OVAS BAP Chair

### 2005/2006 Home show

One of the highlights from the 2005/2006 season was the home show competition that occurred in May. Winners were declared in three tank categories; saltwater, freshwater and cichlid.

Our three winners have provided us with an update of their winning tanks.

### Freshwater Tank Winner

Jody Willoughby (babbelfish1960)

### Life in the fishy fast lane

The summer since Bryana (succinctfish) and I won the freshwater category in the home show tour has been very full. Full of babies, and full of hair algae, fortunately the algae passed by without too much trouble, but the babies are in the millions, well, hundreds, it only feels like millions when feeding them.

We both came down with a summer bug as a result, a very bad case of MTS, we blame the fish and Barry White, there was far too much fishy romance in the water. We have moved some of the fish to different tanks as they all wanted to breed at the same time.

Actually, it had a lot to do with the right ph and good food; the right ambience and a good meal sometimes have these results, if you're lucky.

The plants required a lot of trimming, hygro grows like a weed and the riccia gave Bryana a chance to practice her barbering skills. We've added some new plants that we purchased from OVAS folk, everything is flourishing.

It has been an expansive process and next year should find the tank wall a little more refined with improved lighting and filtration, much like a homemade house, it seems to be never done.

It has been fun watching the angels choosing new spawning sites, and the apistogramma agassizi have taken every opportunity to breed and sneak snacks from the angels.

We've since added some Siamese algae eaters, and they have been very helpful with the hair algae, virtually eliminating it from the tank and also providing some of the dithering that cichlids require.

It was a great experience made easier by the photographer, and we have seen a large number of excellent tanks in our travels, and wholly expect to have to work harder to be in the homeshow this coming year. Till then we wear the crown proudly (well Bryana does, she says it looks better on her), glad to be part of such a great club as OVAS.

### Cichlid Tank Winner

gmann

Since the spring I have made some small aquascaping changes to my 135 but nothing major. I have added a few new fish; a pair of WC calvus, a male frontosa, a WC male Aulonacara "Maleri", male Copadichromis Fluorescent (Pegasus), WC male Protomelas "Jetty", a pair of Rustys and two female red zebras (Dory) who are constantly holding.

I am anxiously awaiting a male Aul. Mdoka, and some male ruby reds from spencer. My plans for the 135 are not certain, but with the growth of my fish I may need to remove some rock. I am currently planning my 3rd tank which is soon to house my WC Calvus and perhaps a few haps.

## OVAS T-Shirts

Show others you love the aquatic hobby, and tell them about OVAS at the same time! These shirts have the OVAS Logo on the front, the "Something Fishy" design on the back, and the OVAS web site address on the sleeve.

We have them available in child sizes as well and they are, of course, the recommended attire to wear to OVAS meetings!

T-Shirts are available for \$10.00 each and can be purchased online at [ovas.ca](http://ovas.ca) or at the monthly meetings.

Available in Grey, Blue, or White.

## Saltwater Tank Winner Nelson

Some of you may remember that I also won best tank in the extremely competitive freshwater category in 2005. This subsequent award was very much a source of pride, considering it was shortly after my conversion, my ego quickly received an adjustment when I was informed that my saltwater entry was the only one in the competition. Oh well...the gift certificate was nevertheless appreciated and certainly put to good use.

My transition from fresh to salt was certainly an interesting one, for several reasons. I was astounded at the variety of colourful fish, invertebrates and corals that are available to the aquarist. As an admitted gadget guy, I equipped and automated my tropical habitats to the point where I unfortunately concluded one day that I had reached the dreaded point of finality. But saltwater, now that's a completely different "kettle of fish"! Given plenty of disposable income, a very understanding spouse and a disorder or two, the hobby can be in a seemingly endless development stage. Having the understanding spouse and certainly the disorders covered, I pressed forward.

Since the competition, I've added approximately 40 additional pounds of live rock, replenished the requisite snail and hermit crab cleaning crew population, contended with an outbreak of hair algae which was eradicated after the introduction of a creature called a Sea Hare, further automated the system for fresh and saltwater top-off and, to the apparent pleasure of my corals, began feeding fresh phytoplankton that I now grow and cultivate.

At the risk of jinxing my luck, I must say that I have been extremely fortunate in that I have had very minimal losses in my freshwater tanks, and have enjoyed the same success in my new direction. I credit this on the very sound advice I received from the many talented aquarists who frequent the OVAS and Aquaria Canada web sites. I learned with every response to my questions and calls for help, which provided me with a firm foundation to take the next step in my hobby.

What's in the future? Well, admittedly I get a lot of visual satisfaction from the progress I've made since I made the transition BUT...as I look at my walled-in 120 gallon reef tank, I often say to myself, "I'll bet a 280 would really look super!" So that's my next project, acquire a 280, enlarge the hole in the wall and convert the 120 to a sump and refugium. As I said earlier, "the hobby can be in a seemingly endless development stage".

I have also been asked to install and maintain a large tank and support system in a soon to be constructed office building. This will be a start to finish endeavour, which I'm very much looking forward to. It will be nice to spend someone else's money for a change!!

Cheers...Nelson

Editors note... to see Nelson's amazing tank visit his website at <http://www.freewebs.com/nelson/>

**2006-2007 Executive**

**President**

Sean Kettle  
president@ovas.ca

**Vice-President**

Chelsea Smith  
vice-president@ovas.ca

**Secretary**

Eric Espig

**Treasurer**

Jackie Slinn

**Past President**

Jody McManus

**Membership**

Sue MacLean

**Program Director**

Alain Decelles  
program-director@ovas.ca

**Breeders Award Program**

Matthew Séguin  
bap@ovas.ca

**Librarian**

Colin DeSouza  
librarian@ovas.ca

**Corporate and Public Relations**

Jody Willoughby  
public-relations@ovas.ca

**Social Convenor**

Jennifer Sutherland

**Newsletter**

Peter Garneau  
newsletter@ovas.ca

**Auctions**

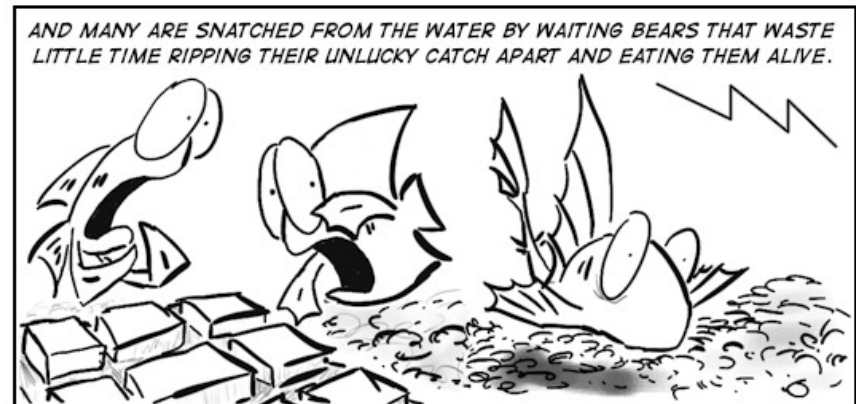
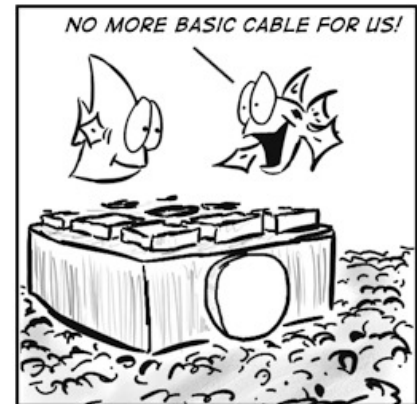
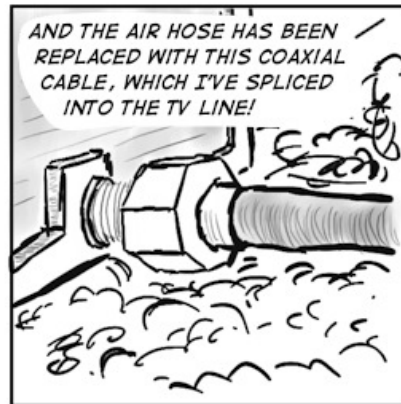
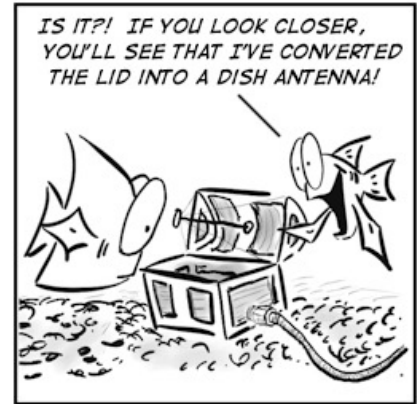
Art Williamson  
auctions@ovas.ca

**Webmaster**

Chris Murray  
webmaster@ovas.ca

# Fish Tank

PART 1



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