

# The SCAT

**The Official Publication Of  
The St. Catharines & Area  
Aquarium Society Since 1958  
Volume 25 Number 5  
February, 2013**

## **In This Issue:**

**Coldwater Corner #2  
Breeding Astatotilapia Anecolor  
Breeding the Ctenochromis polli  
The Great Betta Breed-Off  
Trivia**

# About The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society

Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. David's Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings are not held on holidays; if the first Monday of the month is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month. There are no meetings held in July or August.

The Society was established in 1958 and is a non-profit, educational organization that is dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of aquatic life, both at the beginner and advanced levels.

The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs, Inc (CAOAC - [www.caoac.ca](http://www.caoac.ca)). The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS - [www.faas.info](http://www.faas.info)). More news and information about the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at - [www.scaas.info](http://www.scaas.info).

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. David's Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings start at 7:30 but feel free to arrive early to enter items for the auction or to "talk fish". All are welcome!  
February's Speaker Is Anes Hotic, The Canadian Representative of Zoo Med.

## Upcoming Events

Durham Region Aquarium Society's Annual Social Dinner is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### 2012-2013 Executive

President	Tom Hillier	(905) 227-5008	<a href="mailto:tom.hillier@hotmail.com">tom.hillier@hotmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	John Verhage	(905) 735-7776	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Joe Krawchuk	(905) 325-5562	<a href="mailto:drummers_secret@hotmail.com">drummers_secret@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Open		
Treasurer	Roman Haljkevic		<a href="mailto:romanhajkevic@gmail.com">romanhajkevic@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Ken Brady	(905) 935-4716	<a href="mailto:kbrady2@cogeco.ca">kbrady2@cogeco.ca</a>

### 2012-2013 Committees

Breeder Awards	Tom Bridges	(905) 735-3352	<a href="mailto:tp.bridges@sympatico.ca">tp.bridges@sympatico.ca</a>
Horticultural Awards	Joe Krawchuk	(905) 325-5562	<a href="mailto:drummers_secret@hotmail.com">drummers_secret@hotmail.com</a>
Archives	Tom & Pat Bridges	(905) 735-3352	<a href="mailto:tp.bridges@sympatico.ca">tp.bridges@sympatico.ca</a>
Auction Coordinator	Tom Bridges	(905) 735-3352	<a href="mailto:tp.bridges@sympatico.ca">tp.bridges@sympatico.ca</a>
CAOAC Representative	Tom Hillier	(905) 227-5008	<a href="mailto:tom.hillier@hotmail.com">tom.hillier@hotmail.com</a>
SCAT Editor	Heather Krawchuk	(905) 680-0867	<a href="mailto:hkrawchuk@yahoo.com">hkrawchuk@yahoo.com</a>
SCAT Graphics	Lindsey Marin		<a href="mailto:lindseymarin@hotmail.com">lindseymarin@hotmail.com</a>
Jar Show Coordinator and Judge	Pat Shriner	(905) 354-1367	<a href="mailto:gpshriner@sympatico.ca">gpshriner@sympatico.ca</a>
Membership	Pat Bridges	(905) 735-3352	<a href="mailto:tp.bridges@sympatico.ca">tp.bridges@sympatico.ca</a>
Press/Publicity	Ken Brady	(905) 935-4716	<a href="mailto:kbrady2@cogeco.ca">kbrady2@cogeco.ca</a>
Community Liaison	Heather Krawchuk	(905) 680-0867	<a href="mailto:hkrawchuk@yahoo.com">hkrawchuk@yahoo.com</a>
Refreshments	Shawn Markowski	Shirley Markowski	<a href="mailto:srogers33@cogeco.ca">srogers33@cogeco.ca</a>
Web Master	Heather Krawchuk	(905) 680-0867	<a href="mailto:hkrawchuk@yahoo.com">hkrawchuk@yahoo.com</a>
Web Master	Lindsey Marin		<a href="mailto:lindseymarin@hotmail.com">lindseymarin@hotmail.com</a>
Library	G.O		

## In This Issue:

January's Meeting Minutes

Editor's Message

Coldwater Corner #2

Breeding *Astatotilapia Anecolor*

Breeding the *Ctenochromis polli*

The Great Betta Breed-Off

Breeding *Chalinochromis Brichardi*

Trivia



## Membership Fees

Family - \$25

Single - \$20

Junior (Under 16) - \$10

Student (With I.D.) - \$10

Senior (Over 65) - \$10

Senior Couple (Both Over 65) - \$15

Cover Photo Of Bettas & Design

Courtesy Of Heather Krawchuk

## Jar Shows

**February  
Loaches & Sharks**

**March  
Plants**

## Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have been submitting articles. A reminder that all articles are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month in order to make it into the following month's publication. If you have an idea for an article but aren't sure how to word it or just need a start, please let me know and I'd be happy to help.

With Thanks,  
Heather Krawchuk

## BAP Achievement Award

Presented At January's Meeting

Dave Furness

*Trichogaster trichopterus*

(Three Spot Gourami).....5 pts.

Congratulations!

*Tom Bridges, BAP Chair*

## Niagara Pet Corner

*"For all your pet needs."*



545 Niagara St., Unit 6

Welland, ON

L3C 1L7

(905) 735-2221

*Pets and supplies at the right price.*

# Editor's Message

By Heather Krawchuk

January's meeting was a bittersweet one as we enjoyed two entertaining and educational presentations, but also learned of the resignation of a very valued executive member. Before any of these events happened, members were greatly entertained by the remote-controlled fish brought in by Paul Paradis. This larger than life "Nemo" is filled with helium and appeared to be swimming through the hall as several members took turns controlling it. A thank you to Paul for the entertainment!

Roman Haljkevic started off the presentations with an informative discussion on hatching brine shrimp. Not only did he help everyone to see the different ways of hatching this nutrient-rich food, but he also provided very interesting and enlightening facts and statistics. He definitely encouraged people to go home and start their own hatcheries for the benefit of their fish. He even had his own Vanna White in Ken Brady, who helped display the great visuals Roman found.

Joe Krawchuk rounded out the presentations by showing members how to start and maintain a white worm culture. He conveyed this in an easy to follow manner and also showed members how it costs less than \$5 to start a culture. This type of food, as explained by Joe, offers that fat needed to condition fish in preparation for spawning; now members will know exactly what to do in order to get their fish in peak breeding condition. Just remember to keep those worms out of the refrigerator if you value your relationships!

Pam Danyluck announced her resignation as our club's secretary at the meeting. Her reasons for leaving the position are personal in nature and we wish her all the best during this challenging time. The amount of work that Pam did for the club is vast and impressive. She organized a large part of all of our auctions through ensuring that all paperwork and forms were prepared, signs were made, etc...She spent countless hours before each auction and during each auction to make sure that things ran smoothly. Pam also ensured that meetings flowed well as she prepared the monthly agenda, provided minutes for the SCAT and helped Roman with the paperwork for auctions. She also spent a great deal of time arranging for our guest speakers each month. In addition, Pam also ran our club's C.A.R.E.S program and was the B.A.P Chairperson for invertebrates. The aforementioned words seem small in comparison to Pam's immense role in the club. Her dedication, support of and love for the club will not be forgotten. Pam hopes to be able to continue to attend meetings, and we hope to see her there. All the best, Pam.

## SCAT Re-Print Policy

Any not-for-profit organization may re-print articles from the SCAT provided that credit is given to the author of the article and to the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society (SCAAS) and that two copies of the re-printed publication are sent to: Exchange Editor, Pat Bridges at 4 Crescent Dr. Welland, ON, Canada L3B 2W5. Opinions or endorsements expressed in any article do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCAAS.

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:42 pm.

### Welcome New Members and Visitors

Three visitors joined us at this meeting.

### Announcements by Tom Hillier:

- Upcoming Shows and Auctions - Hamilton will be the first of the season then Brantford will have their Show and Auction. The show will be in honor of Terry Little.
- Pam will be stepping down from all her duties. Thanks to Pam for all the work she has done.
- Anyone not receiving the SCAT please make sure that Heather has your correct email address.
- A letter was read from Community Care thanking us for our continued support.

### Treasure's Report by Roman Haljkevic - Bank \$2976

### New Business

- We are currently having some difficulties with the bank. We received new checks, but they have the wrong address. We can use them until the new ones arrive.

### BAP Presented by Tom Bridges

- Dave Furness for the Three Spot Gouramis.
- Tom asked that if he has missed anyone's certificate to please let him know.

### PROGRAM

Our program for this evening was on live cultures. Roman did a short talk on breeding brine shrimp for your fish's protein needs with Ken assisting. Joe spoke on white worms for your fish's fat needs. Joe had some cultures available in the evening auction. They both gave an example of the way each can be raised. Members added to the discussion with their experiences.

### BREAK

Refreshments provided by Shawn and Shirley

### DOOR PRIZE

### EVENING RAFFLE

### JAR SHOW AWARD

- Was presented by Pat Shriner to Joe Krawchuk

### EVENING AUCTION

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

## Executive Meeting Minutes

An executive meeting was held after the monthly meeting but no minutes were provided.

## Coldwater Corner #2

By Dave Easingwood



Photo Courtesy of Northern Goldfish and Pondkeepers Society

Balance. That's what I got from the January talks by Roman and Joe on Brine Shrimp and White Worm. You can't keep feeding one food to your fish; they need a balanced diet and a varied mix of live and dried food. I only feed my Bristol Shubunkins on white worm once a week, maybe twice in the breeding season, as the white worm is a very fatty food. Similarly, I only feed brine shrimp to my baby fish once a day in the growing season. They get three feeds a day, the others being quality dried food and a feeding of my own frozen mix.

Balance is also so important in all our aquariums: no overcrowding, some plants, plenty of aeration and lighting, a biological filter, no overfeeding, regular partial water changes etc. In the pond, the same applies: the right balance between oxygenating plants and cover plants (like lilies) to give the fish some shade, the balanced location so the water doesn't get too hot or cold (oxygenating plants need that daily sunlight), space for fast-growing fish like Koi, or fast movers like the golden orfe and good depth for the fish to survive outside in the Canadian winter.

Thanks for the positive comments on last month's Coldwater Corner, I appreciate that and the thing I noticed was that there are more members than I thought who have ponds or keep coldwater fish. Keep the balance, winter will soon be over and we can start thinking of outside work in the garden!

## Breeding *Astatotilapia Aneocolor*

By Tom Hillier

The common name of this fish is the yellow belly Albert. They are found in Lake Edward, Lake Albert, Lake George and Kazinga channel. They reach a size of 3-5 inches. They will eat brine shrimp, flake food, bloodworms, pellets, and most live food. The temperature is between 75 and 82 degrees. They are maternal mouth brooders. The male's nest is a hole in the sand and he is very protective of it. Once he mates he loses most of his breeding colors. I kept mine in a 40 gallon tank with two males and 6 females, lots of rock and wood as they can be very aggressive towards one another. They split up and the males had between 3 and 4 females between as they will steal females from each other. The fry are easy to care for. I separated them and put the fry in a 10 gallon tank and fed them live brine shrimp, mirroworms, and my growth food. They were fed an average of 4 to 5 times a day. The fry are smaller than most other Victorians. They are ready to breed at about 6 months from fry size. Some of the members got some from me and they are now breeding them.



Photos Provided By Tom Hillier

Special  
Promotion!

To All Valued SCAAS Members

**25% OFF All Aquatics Products from:**

**FLUVAL** **MARINA**  
**NUTRAFIN** **AquaClear** **ELITE**



Available exclusively at:

**Petland St. Catharines**  
318 Ontario St.  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 5L8  
Tel: (905)641-1715

**Niagara Pet Corner**  
545 Niagara St., Unit 6  
Welland, ON L3C 1L7  
Tel: (905)735-2221

\*offer excludes aquarium kits, aquariums  
and Fluval external filters

**Limited time offer. Available only upon  
presentation of membership card**

 **HAGEN**  
www.hagen.com

## Breeding the *Ctenochromis polli*

By Tom Hillier

This was one of the first West African Haplochromines to be brought into the United States, but now is found in sporadic numbers. The hemophilic cichlid is very aggressive for being so small. The males are about 4 inches the females about 3.5. Males are larger than the females and show a red throat when territorial or breeding. I kept two males and 8 females in the tank with sandy soil and lots of rocks and wood, clay flower pots and half coconut shells, with lots of hiding places in order that the subdominant males and females can hide from the dominant male. They like dim light. I had two sponge filters running in the tank and had duckweed floating on the top to diffuse the light. They were very shy and the only time I saw them was at feeding time. The fry are very easy to raise on live baby brine shrimp and my growth food and they grow fast. At about three quarters of an inch you can see them develop their color and the red throats on the males. They are not a very colorful fish but they are very interesting to watch and grow.



Photo Provided by Tom Hillier

### **Critter Crumbs**

All Natural Homemade Food  
For Pleco, Snails, Fish and Shrimp  
Regular, Seafood, Veggie, Sweet Potato  
Seafood & Sweet Potato, Shrimp & Sweet Potato

For more info:

<http://pamelajo.webs.com/>

### ***Correction***

*Apologies go out to new member Paul Paradis as his last name was spelled incorrectly in last month's edition.*

# The Great Betta Breed-Off

By Heather Krawchuk

I won't lie, fish club sometimes brings out the worst in my brother, Joe, and I. It gives us too many ideas about too many types of fish and tanks and before you know it, you're agreeing to a betta breed-off when you've previously only been successful in breeding guppies and swordtails. I truly cannot remember who proposed the idea, or how it came up, but here I am, almost a month into the competition. Originally, the contest was to be held between my brother, myself and another club member, Lindsey Marin. However, since my brother has successfully bred bettas (and many other fish) in the past and since I'm not the best at breeding fish and since Lindsey is busy with school, we decided that it would be Joe against Lindsey and I.

After talking to Pat Shriner at the last meeting, who graciously agreed to judge our challenge, the competition was on. Joe and I already had beautiful male bettas whom we wanted to breed, but since neither Lindsey nor I had a female betta, we decided that we would somewhat level the playing field by going out together and choosing the females. We went on new year's eve to Niagara Pet Corner, a supporter of the SCAAS. There, we quickly found good quality female bettas and brought them home to start conditioning them.

In May, Pat will judge our results. Each of us will choose our best five bettas and they will be judged based on size and appearance. Below is a short summary of how Lindsey and I have been faring in the competition, while Joe will present his methods in next month's SCAT. Please keep your fingers crossed for Lindsey and I!

December 31<sup>st</sup> - Purchased a female betta (Desdemona) to join our male, Othello.



Othello the Betta - Picture by Heather Krawchuk

January 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> - Conditioned both fish in separate vases in different rooms from each other. Fed them a variety of foods including frozen blood worms and brine shrimp, repashy spawn and grow, betta bites, etc...Set up a ten gallon tank to cycle. Added a heater set to 80 degrees and a small corner filter.

January 7<sup>th</sup> - Secretly spoke to Catharine at the SCAAS meeting for tips and suggestions on how to do this successfully, went home very inspired.

January 8<sup>th</sup> - Cut a styrofoam cup in half length-wise and attached it at the water level in the aquarium, which was roughly five inches high. Added various plants to the tank. Added Othello to his new home. Completely covered the tank for 10-12 hours each day so that he would have plenty of time to rest.

January 11<sup>th</sup> - Placed Desdemona in her vase within Othello's aquarium. Were overjoyed when she immediately began to bow to him and he immediately flared for her. Watched as he began working on his bubble nest very quickly, which had previously been less than impressive.



Othello's Impressive Bubble Nest - Picture by Heather Krawchuk

January 12<sup>th</sup> - Released Desdemona into Othello's aquarium. Watched for hours as he attempted to lure her near his bubble nest, but she wanted no part of it.



Desdemona - It's A Shame It Didn't Work Out - Picture by Heather Krawchuk

January 13<sup>th</sup> - Asked Joe to come up and take a look at the fish. His advice was that Desdemona, despite eating like a pig for more than a week straight, did not seem ready to breed. Joe graciously offered the use of one of his ready-to-breed female bettas (which will surely be held against us at a later date). Sadly removed Desdemona from the tank and returned her to her original home.

January 14<sup>th</sup> - Introduced Joe's female (whom we were told was not allowed to be given a Shakespearian name) to Othello via the glass part of a hurricane lamp. Both Othello and the new female immediately began to flare at each other and Othello picked up his bubble-making tenfold. His nest grew to a size that we didn't even think was possible in such a short amount of time.

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Set the new female free in Othello's aquarium. Watched a high-speed pursuit for several hours that ended up going nowhere. Stopped feeding both bettas at this point to avoid distractions.



Othello Pursuing His New Lady - Picture By Heather Krawchuk

January 16<sup>th</sup> - After more than twenty-four hours together, finally watched breeding take place. The pair seemed a little out of synch and many eggs fell to the bottom that were not fertilized. Othello was not quick enough to catch a great deal of the eggs, so the female consumed many of them in between bouts of temporary paralysis. Removed the female when it was clear that breeding was done. Added conditioner to her water and after a recovery period, fed her to give her strength back. Lindsey and I were both surprised that there was very little damage to the fins of either fish. Added fungus clear to the water to prevent the eggs from getting fungus. Also covered the tank with plastic wrap to prevent the babies from getting too cold too fast and dying if they swam to the top of the water.

January 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> - Desperately tried to see the eggs that Othello seemed to be guarding, but Joe was the only one who seemed able to.

January 19<sup>th</sup> - Saw little tails sticking down from the bubbles! Lindsey began practicing her brine shrimp hatching. Othello was congratulated, removed from the tank and given a new palace with plenty of food and conditioner.

January 20<sup>th</sup> - Several free-swimming babies can be seen swimming in the tank. We began adding first-bites to the tank three times per day.

Now, the hard part apparently begins as the fry are so tiny and fragile. With any luck, we will be able to sustain them and Lindsey and I will have more to report next month. Remember to keep those fingers crossed, please!

# Breeding The *Chalinochromis Brichardi*

Pictures and Articles By Dave Furness

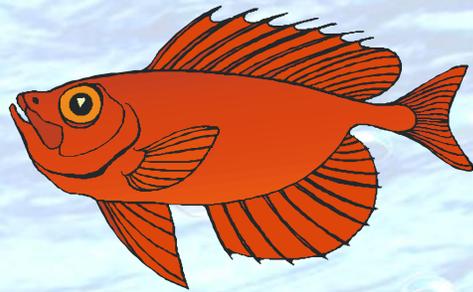
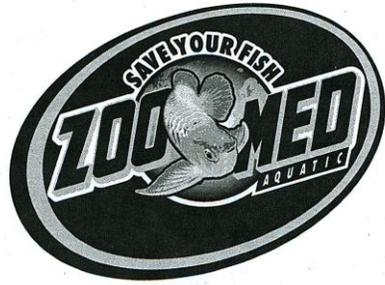
I have seldom seen this cichlid in the hobby. This fish is from northeast Lake Tanganyika, along the rocky shores of Burundi. With age the males develop a small frontal hump. The males are usually larger, and the black spot in the dorsal fin is a dark black. The female has a defused spot. These spots will eventually disappear with age. The average length of these fish is from 2.5 to 4 inches.

The Brichardi are the most comfortable with a lot of rock work. They are also good with plants as well. The Brichardi are cave spawners, and are comfortable with a PH between 7.2 and 9.0. For breeding this species, set your water temperature between 79 to 82 degrees. Their greenish-coloured eggs are attached to the roof of a cave. There are about 120 eggs, and they hatch between 2 to 4 days. The fry are free-swimming between 8 to 10 days and can be fed newly hatched brine shrimp. The fry are striped, and have a black dot on their dorsal. As they grow older they lose their stripes, and then eventually lose the black spot.

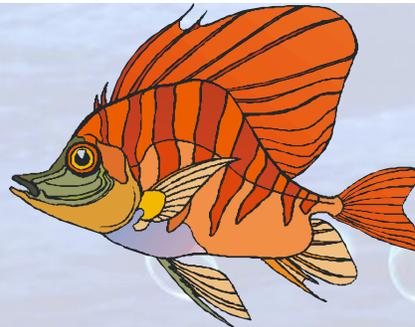


See More of Dave's Pictures On Our Website – [www.scaas.info](http://www.scaas.info)





**RONA**  
Welland



## Mail Order Pet Supplies

Call for a  
FREE Catalogue!

"Delivering Affordable Prices  
to Tropical Fish Hobbyists."

Full line of brand name aquarium  
supplies at discount prices

Save more with our  
flat-rate shipping

No Minimum Order



1-888-648-MOPS • WWW.MOPS.CA 

# Let's Have A Little Fun!

## January Answers

- 1.) This fish is one of the big guys of the hobby. Many aquarist buy this cute little fishy without knowing that it can turn into a monster at 12 inches (30 cm). They are known for their personality and love rearranging aquarium decor. Oscar fish
- 2.) The male gender of this fish has a large pointed fin-extension on its tail. They are livebearers and come in a multitude of colors. Swordtail
- 3.) This shoaling fish can live with little oxygen in the water and feeds on invertebrates and algae. The pigment of this fish is derived from the colors, black, yellow, and orange. Goldfish
- 4.) This fish has a labyrinth organ which allows it to breathe from the surface when subjected to an environment low in oxygen. Loves fruit. Giant Gourami
- 5.) This nocturnal fish stays at the surface, usually under leaves or wood, and waits for insects. They are fantastic jumpers, so you need a well- enclosed aquarium. They have a number of 'spikes' that act as feelers for their pelvic region. African Butterfly Fish

## February Questions

Questions & Answers Courtesy of [www.funtrivia.com](http://www.funtrivia.com)

1.) These little guys never stop. Known as one of the most hyperactive of all freshwater fish, they are shoaling fish, and prefer to spawn on a gravelly bottom. Adult females will often choose to mate with the same male many times.

- Zebra danio
- Guppy
- Black tetra
- Carp

2.) One of the best known saltwater fish in the world. It is famous for its symbiotic relationship with anemones in tropical reef systems.

- Puffer
- Clownfish
- Mandarin
- Basslet

3.) An African dwarf cichlid commonly found in the Niger delta. This fish loves to breed and can do so without almost any help from the aquarist. They are excellent parents, and will often spawn in caves.

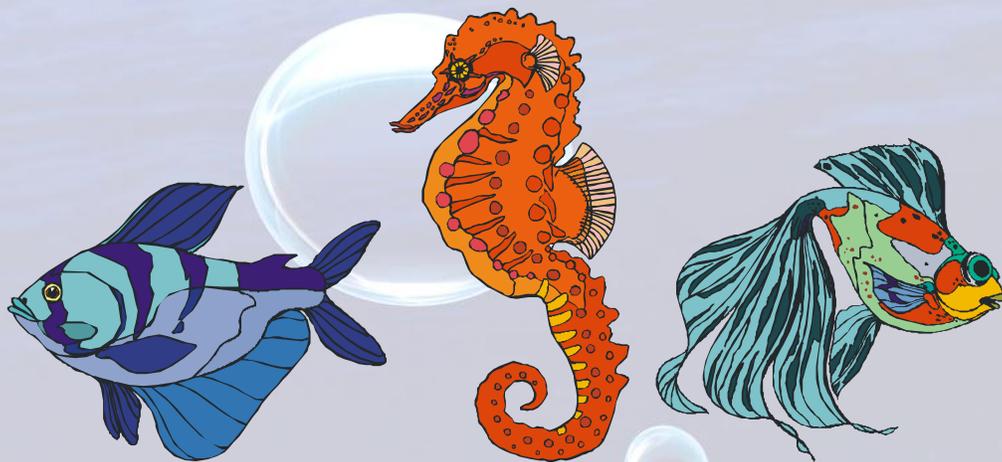
- Kribensis
- Apistogramma
- German blue ram
- Adis Ababba

4.) These fish have a very depressed look to them. They are usually marine, but there are also freshwater inhabitants. They are known for their long tail and tendency to cover themselves in sand.

- Piranha
- Stingray
- Blind Cavefish
- Flattop

5.) This fish can't hide anything!

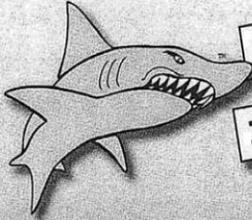
- Khuli
- Labeo
- Glass Catfish
- Molly





# Big Al's AQUARIUM SUPERCENTRES & PET CITY

Serving You Since 1985



## LIVE SHARK FEEDING FRENZY EVERY TUESDAY 7 PM SHARK!

### Tropical Fish

- Marine Fish
- Aquariums
- Feeder Fish
- Specializing in Custom Aquarium Units
- All Aquarium Supplies

### Puppies & Kittens

- Pet Foods
- Extensive Dog & Cat Supplies

### Exotic Birds

- Large Selection of Tropical Birds
- Cages & Supplies
- Bird Grooming Available by Appointment

### Dog & Cat Grooming Salon

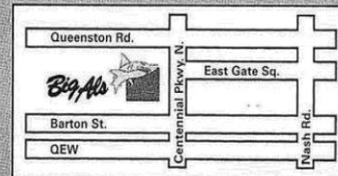
### Small Animals

### Exotic Reptile Room

### Full Line of Pond Supplies

### COME VISIT OUR 12,000 SQ. FT. SHOWROOM

- Open to the Public
- Warehouse Prices
- Fish Direct from our Florida Farm



MONDAY - FRIDAY 10 am - 9 pm • SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10 am - 6 pm  
140 Centennial Parkway N., Hamilton (next to Crabby Joe's)

# 905-560-1000



www.*Big Al's* hamilton.com



# THE TROPICAL FISH ROOM LTD.



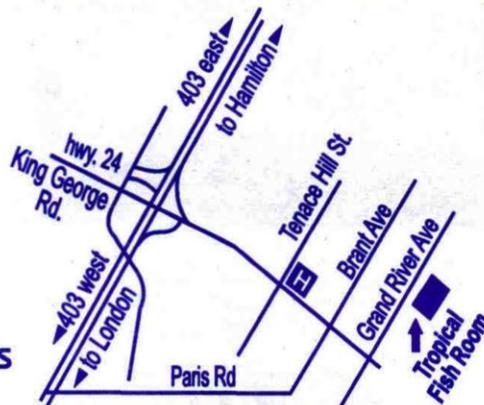
**Quality Tropical Fish & Supplies!**

**OVER 100 AQUARIUMS OF  
FRESH & SALT WATER  
FISH TO CHOOSE FROM!**

**• POND FISH, SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES •**



Visit Our New Reptile Room  
Amphibians • Invertebrates  
Food • Supplies • Accessories



**New Convenient Location With lots of free Parking!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

MON-FRI 11AM-8PM SAT 11AM-5PM SUN 12NOON-4PM



# 519-756-6225



166 GRAND RIVER AVE, BRANTFORD, ONT. N3T 4X6

[www.tropicalfishroom.ca](http://www.tropicalfishroom.ca)