The Toronto Sportsmen’s Show has introduced many generations of show goers to Canada’s outdoor heritage in its 64-year history. For most a sure sign of spring’s arrival is the grand opening of the Toronto Sportsmen’s Show. Many of you may not be aware that the Toronto Sportsmen’s Show is only one of several such venues under the umbrella of The Canadian National Sportsmen’s Shows. Others include, The Ottawa Boat & Sportsmen’s Show, The Calgary Boat & Sportsmen’s Show, The Edmonton Boat & Sportsmen’s Show, the Salon Expert Chasse, Peche et Camping Shows out of both Montreal and Quebec City, as well as an assortment of Motorcycle shows across Canada.

The organization has been run by Walter Oster, Chairman, CEO at the Canadian National Sportsmen’s Shows, which is the largest producer of outdoor shows throughout Canada. He is Chairman and Tournament Director of the Great Ontario Salmon Derby, the world’s largest freshwater fishing derby with 25,000 participants. Walter Oster is a driving force in the improvement of Canada’s fisheries resource. With Walter at the helm, the Non-Profit Canadian National Sportsmen’s Shows have contributed millions to Conservation projects and campaigns across Canada. Walter’s passion for fishing extends to providing youth with fishing opportunities. He is the key organizer of the Greater Toronto Recreational Fishing Committee that offers youth, who wouldn’t otherwise have the chance or the means to fish during the summer with special licence-free Ontario Family Fishing Weekends. I think it is important to recognize that by purchasing a ticket to this show you are supporting great projects right here in Ontario like the Metro East Anglers, Return of the Coho Campaign.

The Toronto Sportsmen’s Show has been a major sponsor of the Ringwood Fish Culture Station since September 2006 and it’s support for the Metro East Anglers goes even further back than that. The MEA is very proud to continue having this great organization as a sponsor for all of our Salmon and Trout efforts. As one of Ringwood’s most appreciated sponsors we are once again happy to support the Toronto Sportsmen’s Show. Through our Sportsmen’s show booth each year we try to educate the general public with regards to our volunteer works and those partners responsible for helping us with them.

Please feel free to drop by our booth with your thoughts or comments regarding the MEA and its community supported fish stocking programs out of the Ringwood Fish Culture Station or view us online at:

http://ringwoodfcs.proboards.com

By Steve Lynas

The Return of Coho Salmon has been a MEA priority for many years
The Metro East Anglers has forged a great partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources over the last decade or so, but at no time has it been demonstrated as keenly or as strongly as it has now. With the signing of the agreement to keep Ringwood open for another year, the MNR has entrusted the MEA to look after the Ringwood facility and at the same time gotten behind our now 6 year old desire to keep Coho going in Ontario. Beyond just the facilities agreement the MNR has stepped up in several ways to help the club on items that would have been difficult for us to tackle on our own. A perfect example was sending a large stocking truck to stock out the 70,000 Coho this past fall. If we had to do it on our own it would have taken over 2 weeks and 10 or so trips. With the MNR stocking vehicle it was all done in one day. Another example of this great partnership came when we started having trouble finding enough Coho eggs this past fall. The MNR scouted streams and even sent staff to help us do a last minute collection on Cobourg Creek. So a big hats off to our Partners in the MNR. Together we make the fishery better.

I am sure everyone is aware that the Toronto Sportsmen’s Show/Great Ontario Salmon Hunt is a major Sponsor of the MEA and all our efforts at Ringwood. Not surprising because it seems that the Chairman, Walter Oster, has always been there to help the Lake Ontario Fishery in whatever way he can. First with the original Ringwood deal and then with contributions to all the new pen projects on Lake Ontario. He continues that tradition by supporting our Coho, Brown and Rainbow efforts. Thanks Walter for stepping up and making a major financial contribution to the MEA and Ringwood. Your support makes it possible to keep Ringwood producing great fish.

As a Normark/Rapala representative, Matt Santoro, has been instrumental in helping us sign our new sponsor. Such that we can now count Normark/Rapala as the second major sponsor to sign on and help us not only keep Ringwood open, but the Coho program alive on the north shores of Lake Ontario. Normark/Rapala is the largest fishing tackle manufacturer and distributor in the world. You are likely familiar with some of their many brands and products, such as Blue Fox, VMC, Luhr Jensen and Suffix, just to name a few. It just so happens that Suffix fluorocarbon leader line is my favourite for making fly and cutbait rigs, and under the Blue Fox brand they make the Matrixx Salmon Spoon, which is also one of my top go to spoons...wonder if we can get samples?

Normark products are available in every tackle store under numerous brand names. Please go to their Website and familiarize yourself with their products at:

http://www.rapalaworld.com/

I also want to thank the PWSFA (Port Whitby Sport Fish Association) for running the Salmon Derbies out of Port Whitby. They raised $2000 for the MEA & Ringwood and committed to providing us with at least $2000 each year for the next 5 years. Thanks also to CLOSA (Central Lake Ontario Sport Anglers) who have always stepped up. This past fall they did again with a $1000 donation to Ringwood.

In the past we have received a major financial contribution from the TD Bank through its Friends of The Environment Campaign. Presently we are in negotiation with them and hope to be able to announce their involvement soon.

In closing I would like to say we are still in need of some more financial sponsorship. We are about $20,000 short of raising enough to cover a full year of operation at Ringwood. If you know any companies or organization that might be interested in supporting us please let me know at,
Since 2008 the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), together with their counterpart in the US, the New York Department of Environment and Conservation (NYDEC), have been mass marking every Chinook Salmon being stocked into Lake Ontario. This effort saw millions of hatchery raised Chinook salmon have their adipose fins clipped and wire coded tags inserted. The fin clip identified the fish as hatchery raised while the inserted tag contained data specific to the year class, the hatchery that raised them and the location they were stocked. With four year classes to collect data from biologists believe there will be enough returning salmon to collect the details they need. After all the data is collected and analysis this project will then be able to give biologist vital information about natural reproduction. With this information all interested parties will have a better understanding of the needs of both our Salmon fishery and the watersheds that support them.

As the host club for the Chinook program from September, 2006 until September, 2011, the Metro East Anglers have been firmly involved in this mass marking program. During that time the Metro East Anglers has worked closely with many clubs and supportive volunteers to help the MNR with its mass marking requirements. The demands of marking over 500,000 small salmon fry annually required many hands.

Much of the work revolved around the many new salmon pen imprinting projects that were sprouting up across the north shores of Lake Ontario. On top of the physical requirements of the mass marking trailer the MEA volunteers assisted in the hand clipping of every Chinook fry destined for one of the many pen projects on our Lake. At last count there were 7 pen imprinting projects from as far west as St. Catherines to as far east as Wellington. Because each of these projects received their salmon fry prior to the Auto Fish Marking Trailer’s arrival in the spring these small fry had to be clipped by hand. Each of these 7 pens received their salmon fry weeks in advance of the usual stocking dates. Their small size made hand clipping their adipose fins very tedious work.

As announced by the former Minister Cansfield in 2008, the Chinook salmon program was transferred to the Normandale Fish Culture Station this past fall. At that time it was believed that volunteers would have to travel to the new location on Lake Erie. With this announcement the pen project volunteers will be happy to know they will not have to make the journey to the Normandale Fish Culture Station to hand clip their allotment of pen fry this year. Starting around the end of March the MNR will be making all the same deliveries as had been done in past years. The MNR will be following a similar delivery time and schedule as originally set up by the MEA when it handle all pen fry logistics.

It is important to note that the MNR has been very supportive in all efforts to accommodate community volunteers and their need to continue supporting the Chinook salmon program in their local areas on the North Shores of Lake Ontario.

By Steve Lynas
It is the goal of the Board of Directors to keep the lines of communications open to those who in a positive way support MEA projects. We hope that this Newsletter will not only communicate the happenings out at Ringwood, but also provide a collective gratitude towards those whose charity is so vitally important to this project. We hope that you will get behind this Newsletter by thinking of ways you can contribute to it. As we are a community supported organization this Newsletter can only get better if the community has a hand in its evolution. As we welcome all those who want to contribute, we ask only that you respect our Partners, Sponsors and Members in any article you feel a desire to write. The Newsletter should contain articles that help promote or educate readers about projects related to Ringwood. Interesting volunteer experiences or other positive stories related to the MEA, Ringwood or our sponsors are a nice way to foster a sense of community goodwill. The Board maintains the rights to edit material viewed as inappropriate for this Newsletter. If you are interested please submit articles with any supporting pictures to:

steve.lynas@gmail.com

If you are not an MEA member yet and want to join. Then send an email to,

metroeastanglers@gmail.com

All we need is your name, email address and mailing address. With this information you will then be put on our MEA Inc. mailing list for future Newsletters and any upcoming events.

Rest assured that all precautions are used to ensure your email is not shared with any unwanted lists. Emails will be sent as blind copies and nobody else will be privy to them but you.
The Metro East Anglers Inc. is a Not for Profit organization established in September 2011, under the following Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to Establish a Conservation Club for the Purposes, of Preserving Protecting and Restoring Rivers and Lakes. This will be achieved in Partnership with the OMNR through the following activities:

- Raising of fry at a hatchery for release into Lake Ontario and its tributaries
- Operation of a fish ladder on the Rouge River to improve spawning opportunities for Rainbow Trout in that watershed
- Operation of 4 pen projects in the GTA and Durham regions to help acclimatize and imprint over 50,000 Chinook salmon fry to our area. Increasing survival rates and recreational fishing opportunities

Board of Directors

Andy Rubaszek....Hatchery Operations

Bruce Burt............Finance/Sponsorship

Glenn Anderson..........President

Steve Lynas..........Hatchery Operations

Steve Rivard.........Recording Secretary

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Phone (905)640-6204

Please visit our website at:
http://ringwoodfcs.proboards.com