

The Metro East Anglers Inc.

2012 MEA Pen Projects Updates

Well to say 2012 was a good year for the pen projects would be an understatement. This year was fantastic in more ways than one. Back in February, project lead Chris Currie from the Bluffers location, was able to negotiate an increase in their Chinook fry allotment to 17,500. At the same time Hoss Hele, who leads the Oshawa project was able to negotiate an increase to 12,500 fry. This means that all MEA Pen Project locations are currently at 50% of their area's entire Chinook Salmon stocking quota... As high as allowable, **Fantastic!**

As mentioned in earlier articles we were able to get major sponsors involved in helping to fund MEA activities, including the four Pen Projects we currently oversee. They are the TD Bank's, Friends of the Environment Foundation, Normark/Rapala, The Toronto Sportsman's Show, and of course are good partners at Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). We are also supported by the many local community sponsors that step up in the individual project areas. The Port Whitby Marina, the Bluffers Park Marina and Bobby C's at the Darlington Marina. In order to get some much needed recognition for our sponsors/partners and to better educate the public at large on the Pen projects, we decided to build outdoor signs for each location. Ron Bince and

Scott Hill from the Bluffers project stepped up to design a sign with appropriate logos for each project. Scott Hill works for **Inside Edge Publishing**. He did a great job getting the signs done with a short lead time. We wanted everything in place when the fry arrived at the end of



Whitby Pen Project lead Matt Santoro stands together with supporters including Whitby Councillors Joe Drumm and Lorne Coe

March. The signs were in place and they looked fantastic.

Hot weather had us all worried towards the end of March. Water temperatures were around 11 c in Whitby Harbour this year when they are usually around 2 or 3c. The worry was for not, as April saw temperatures cool down leaving water temperatures at all pen locations close to perfect. A consistent 11 to 14c for all 4 to

5 weeks, which is an ideal range for Chinook fry to feed and grow. Normally the fry would be fairly dormant in the pens until the water warmed up, but it was perfect from day one of the fry arrival. Combine this with the great quality of the Normandale Hatchery's Chinook fry delivered by the OMNR's Fish Culture Section (almost 4 grams in size

on delivery) and we were able to achieve some pretty impressive growth rates at all locations. In 4 weeks of our care we

were able to increase the fry's average weight by 2.5 times. All locations came in at close to or above a 10 gram average weight with almost zero mortality. **WOW!!** Get your rods ready there is going to be a great salmon run along the shores from Bluffers to Darlington in a few years.

On the community front: In our efforts to promote and gain public support for our great Lake Ontario fishery we were able to get Whitby Mayor Pat Perkins and city council members, Lorne Coe and Joe Drumm out for the fry arrival. They were pretty impressed with stories of the fishery and at the 40 plus people supporting the Whitby project. They were so impressed they want to see first hand these mammoth beasts by registering for one of our Salmon derbies this summer. See details on Whitby Salmon Derbies on page two of this Newsletter. The Bluffers location was also able to get out a city councillor who was also impressed and came back to participate on their fry release day. All in all a very impressive year for our Pen projects and in closing I'd like to thank everyone who helped make it a great year. Special thanks to our project leads who stepped up and took on the extra responsibility.

Scotty Richardson and Tom Meraw in Port Darlington, Hoss Hele in Port Oshawa. Rumour has it Oshawa will be more visible next year as the location is supposed to change ownership from it's now Federal hands to Municipal ones.



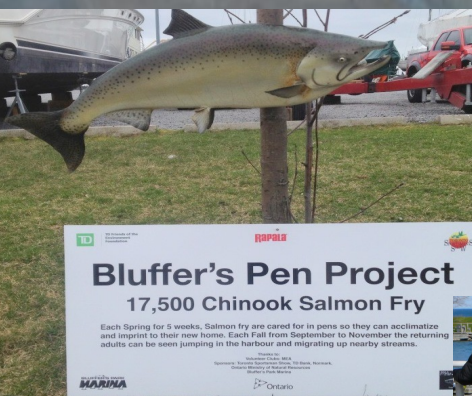
Cliff Cook, Frank Teklenburg and newest MEA member Matt Chambers move Chinook smolts out to the end of Whitby Pier

Our very own, Matt Santoro for Port Whitby and of course Chris Currie who kept Bluffers organized. Sweet job everyone.

By Bruce Burt

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AT EACH OF THE PEN PROJECTS

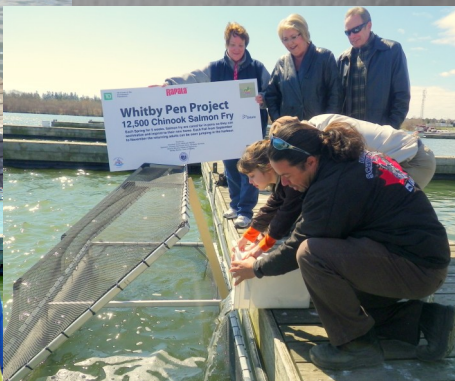
Bluffers park pen Project



Whitby Pen Project



Oshawa Pen Project



Darlington Pen Project



Port Whitby Sports Fishing Association Presents:

Summer Salmon Series

DETAILS:

- \$100 Two man Team
- \$150 Three Man team +
- 6 Rod Maximum
- \$50 three fish Calcutta

Proceeds to help the Metro East Anglers and its continued operations of the Ringwood Fish Culture Station

If interested please contact Bruce Burt at
Bruce.Burt2@sypatico.ca

TD BANK'S FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT STEP UP AT MILNE FISHWAY

Constructed in 2001, the fishway was designed to help species such as Rainbow Trout reach spawning grounds upstream so they can reproduce. The river below the Milne Dam to Lake Ontario is too warm for adequate natural reproduction of salmon and trout. Along with monitoring Rainbow Trout spawning runs, the fishway is utilized to track potential invasive species that might inhabit the Rouge River.

The Metro East Anglers (MEA), together with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), have been managing this operation since its inception. This past spring marked the first opportunity for our club to get back to its roots in several years. Rearing and stocking the OMNR's entire allotment of Lake Ontario Chinook Salmon has been the primary

focus of the MEA for the past five years; a substantial task that too often meant sacrificing our spring practice of assisting the OMNR with the operation of the Milne Fishway. The twenty plus stocking sites for Chinooks at this time of the year required all the volunteer time and effort we could pull together. After honouring our commitment during those demanding years, it was very gratifying for me to get back to our roots with this fundamental local program.



TD Bank's, Friends of the Environment step up to support us out at the Milne Fishway

This year we invited our new sponsor, the TD Bank's, Friends Of The Environment Foundation. On that day, local Stouffville TD bank manager Bill McKinney and staff handed the MEA a cheque for \$20,000. The foundation has committed to future cheques supporting the MEA and their programs for a total of five years. The MEA would like to thank the TD Bank

for their generous support and we hope to see more of their staff amongst our volunteers in the future.

Besides moving Rainbow trout to better spawning grounds, we often use this opportunity to collect wild Rouge River Rainbow Trout eggs. The eggs and milt are collected and then brought back to the Ringwood Fish Culture Station. There volunteers will care for them until their release back into the Rouge as yearlings next spring. At the time of writing this article the eggs were fully eyed-up and ready to hatch any day now. All members of the MEA our invited to come out to Ringwood and help us with the care of these young trout. Summer months will see an increased need for your support.



This 7kg male Rainbow Trout was moved over the Rouge river's Milne dam this spring

By Steve Lynas



MEA's Glenn Anderson and Bruce Burt have been educating the public for years on our rearing/stocking programs

Some of my best memories over the past 10 years have developed from my interaction with members of the general public. It seems the majority of folks care about fish and they are genuinely thankful knowing that there are people doing something to help them in our watersheds. Young and old alike seem to gain from the education we offer their curious minds about our days' activities. Back in the early days we worked with then Minister of Natural Resources,

MEA PROGRAMS HELP EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITY

Jerry Ouellette, to engage Os-hawa public school children while we collected Rainbow Trout eggs for our Parkview Hatchery. By demonstrating the splendour of its living inhabitants, the MEA is often able to inform people of the importance of their local watersheds.

This tradition of community education has been a part of the MEA since its founding over 15 years ago. Over the years, our programs and hatchery locations have changed somewhat, but we have never lost sight of this important community connection. Today the tradition lives on in the many Salmon pen imprinting projects we have helped bring

across the North Shore of Lake Ontario. Chinook Salmon fry are delivered to pen projects by our partners at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. (OMNR) Local communities then take charge of rearing them for a 4 to 5 week period. Besides improving their local fall fishery in these areas, they provide an incredible source

of community education and involvement. The project leaders thank the OMNR's, Fish Culture Section for arranging these special early stocking trips to the individual pen projects. Through the MNR's support this wonderful community educational tool is helping engage our lakeside communities.



Rob Baldali and his son Jason share a moment stocking salmon at the Whitby Pen Project

From our early roots at the Parkview hatchery to our present agreement at the Ringwood Fish Culture Station, we have had many inquisitive visitors over the years. We have helped educate Students, Teachers, Cub Scouts, Angling Clubs and the general public at large. Many of these encounters have been my fondest memories.

By Steve Lynas



Andy Rubaszek works with Sir Sanford Fleming college kids at the Ringwood Fish Culture Station

METRO EAST ANGLERS ATTEND OMNR PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION



Lake Ontario Fisheries (Zone 20) 2012 Public Information Sessions

April 3 - Niagara On The Lake

Niagara College NOTL Campus 135 Taylor Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

April 4 - Port Credit

Clarke Memorial Hall, 161 Lakeshore Road West, Mississauga (Port Credit)

April 17 - Belleville

Belleville Fish and Game Club 170 Elmwood Drive, Belleville

April 18 - Oshawa

Oshawa Arts Resource Centre, 45 Queen Street, Oshawa

Sessions start at 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Free Admission

Agenda

- Fishery Management update for Lake Ontario, the Bay of Quinte and selected tributaries including stocking, regulations, restoration, planning and proposed 2012 Fish Community Objectives.
- The state of the fishery with results from Ontario and New York 2011 monitoring programs.
- Panel Discussion – ask questions and get answers from Managers, Biologists, Conservation Officers and Partners

For more information email FMZ20@ontario.ca or call 1-613-476-3285



Presented by: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



On April 18th at the Oshawa Arts Resource Centre, the last session of a series of educational meetings was held by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). These meetings focused on the state of Lake Ontario, better known to stakeholders as Fish Management Zone 20. (FMZ 20) The session provided an opportunity for both the OMNR and those interested to understand and comment on objectives for Lake Ontario in the future. It was a full three hour meeting filled with discussion and debate on a wide range of fish management topics. Full details can be found on the OMNR's website, under the publication,

"Fish Community Objectives for Lake Ontario-Public Consultation Draft-2012".

Here are some of the highlights I took away from this very informative evening.

Proposed Changes to Bass Season:

Current bass season for FMZ 20 is 4th Saturday in June to November 30th. The new proposed bass season for Zone 20 would see it start earlier (3rd Saturday in June) and end later (December 15th). Generally it is thought that bass are spawning sooner in response to earlier spring warming. As a result of this it is believed that the season can be opened one week earlier in many areas while still protecting bass during the parental care period that goes with spring bass spawning.

Muskellunge Minimum Size Limit Increase for Zone 20:

Change minimum size limits from 122 cm (48 inches) and 112 cm (44 inches) in the lower Niagara River to 137 cm (54 inches) across the board for Zone 20. In 2005-2006, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicaemia or VHS killed a huge number of the large mature Muskellunge in the upper St. Lawrence. It is believed that approximately half of the mature Muskellunge population succumbed to the virus. Dr. John Casselman, a recognized muskellunge expert, has advised the Zone 20 Council that a new minimum is needed to protect the remaining spawning stock.

For many of us it was reassuring to hear the OMNR reiterate goals for what they call the, "Offshore Pelagic Zone" In their publication it states there is a desire going forward to,

"maintain Chinook Salmon as the top offshore pelagic predator supporting trophy recreational lake and tributary fisheries through stocking."

The publication further reiterates a commitment to ***"maintain the recreational lake and tributary fisheries for Brown and Coho Salmon through stocking."***

Brown Trout and Coho Salmon currently represent species the Metro East Anglers have worked hard to support through this year's development of new agreements, partnerships and sponsors. I think it is worth noting that presently the MEA are the only source for rearing and stocking Coho Salmon in the Province of Ontario.

Some interesting science at the meeting came in the form of what used to be referred to as "The Food Chain". The interacting living components in the nearshore, offshore pelagic and benthic zones of the Lake are now being referred to as "The Food Web" because they can be envisioned as a complex web of feeding relationships. Many factors outside the direct control of fish management agencies alter fish habitat or feeding relationships and can disrupt the food web resulting in unpredictable and uncontrollable shifts in the fish community. It was suggested by the presenting OMNR expert that one such shift has occurred with the Chinook's main diet, the Alewife. He believes that in an attempt to compensate for a shift in zooplankton and benthos Alewife are feeding further offshore than traditionally thought. This little tip might just mean that

Salmon fishermen should start looking for future "bait balls" further off shore than they might have in past outings.

Lastly, a discussion that is dear to me surrounds the "Loop Hole" used by some unprincipled anglers to catch Rainbow Trout in off limit areas by suggesting to Conservation Officers they are fishing for White Suckers. According to the CO attending that night, this deception is very difficult to prosecute when these individuals are releasing their self proclaimed incidental catches. An audience member tabled a suggestion that there be absolutely No Fishing allowed at all in areas that are presently closed to fishing migratory trout until the season opens on the 4th Saturday in April. This idea would make it simple for Conservation Officers to identify what many anglers already see as poaching. I truly support this effort and believe this is a sound policy for those that value our streamside Rainbow fishery. Even if the trout are not being kept by fishermen, they are being pressured at a time when they are best left alone to couple and spawn. As migratory Rainbows leave Zone 20 and travel into their spawning grounds in Zone 16 and 17, the regulations surrounding their protection falls to those zone council members and the OMNR district managers that meet with them regularly. If, like me, you would like to see this "Loop Hole" eliminated then please send an email to the zone councils in your area. The email addresses for these two zones are

FMZ16@ontario.ca & FMZ17@ontario.ca

The Ministry of Natural Resources encourages all interested people to contact them with their opinions on these proposed changes to Zone 20 at,

FMZ20@ontario.ca

By Steve Lynas

Lake Ontario Annual Stocking Reports can be found at:

www.glfrc.org/lakecom/loc/mgmt_unit

Please Report Resource Abuse when discovered at:

1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)

RAINBOW TROUT IN LAKE ONTARIO

I have been fortunate to meet a great group of individuals who have created opportunities for myself and anyone else interested in helping the fishery. One such opportunity has been Rainbow trout.

Rainbow Trout were introduced here from different strains of West Coast steelhead. They were first introduced in the late 1800's by a facility in New York State. Shortly after that, a private entity began a Canadian program. Evidence shows that there was a Rainbow program before the 1900's but that data has not been accurately published. In the 1920's the then, **Ontario Department of Lands and Forests**, noticed an abundance of these established Rainbow Trout in our tributaries. They understood the value this represented to our environment and to those that have enjoyed its benefits. In 1924 they decided to take on their own stocking program. Since those early days, Rainbow Trout have proven remarkably well at adapting to our Lake Ontario ecosystem.

From the late 1700's until the mid 1900's, our tributaries were developed primarily with industry in mind. Too many dams were created that denied all migratory fish species access to better spawning grounds. In 1972 the newly formed **Ministry of Natural Resources** (OMNR), realized this problem and moved forward with restoration efforts on many tributaries.

In 2001, the OMNR began working with local contractors to create a Fishway at the Milne dam conservation area. Later in 2002, the pond was drained to help

complete the fishway. I spent many days fishing for Rainbow Trout then. Until that time I had never witnessed such fantastic fishing opportunities and I had to find out why. I spent some time educating myself on the fishway and the fish stocking efforts going into the watershed surrounding my home town of Markham, Ontario. My research led me to the Metro East Anglers. At that time the MEA was located in two small portables on a golf course. There I was able to witness firsthand the early growth stages of Rainbow Trout. After a few visits, I watched them grow from eyed-up egg to sac fry. It would be a lasting experience I would carry with me to this day.

As life got busy I found myself living in Alberta, but on my return I discovered the MEA had started a new undertaking at the Ringwood Fish Culture Station. This is where I really got hooked. I wanted to educate myself about rearing fish species within our Great Lakes and its tributaries. The club was still operating the Rainbow Trout program destined for Bruce Creek and the Little Rouge. As a member of the MEA, I volunteered this past spring to help the OMNR do a Rouge River Rainbow Trout Redd (spawning bed) count. Through my participation, I found myself walking many of the same tributaries I had walked as a kid. From a young age I have always been interested in fishing. I had fished these areas for many years and had never caught a Rainbow Trout north of the Milne dam until 2002. This year I was surprised to see an abundance of Rainbow Trout in this river system. As part of the Redd survey, I've walked over 40 kilometers of river and

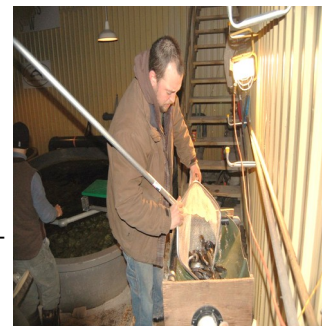
have counted more than 300 spawning beds. If my counts are accurate we can assume a minimum of 300 pairs or 600 Rainbows making the 70 kilometer journey from Lake Ontario to the northern stretches of the Rouge River. In my entire life I have never witnessed Rainbow Trout in these river stretches before.

This spring, volunteers of the MEA collected eggs at the Milne fishway and, like the past 15 years, will once again be stocking Rainbow Trout into the Rouge River system. I am very pleased to be a part of this program and proud to show anglers that they needn't leave their hometown to find great fishing opportunities. With a little bit of walking, I was able to witness a spawning pair of Rainbow Trout for the first time in this area. I watched a couple swim around very fast and then settle down into some fresh gravel. They then slowly moved the gravel downstream while dispersing their spawn. This year has been a great learning opportunity for me. I hope that in the future we

are able to show young interested members of the community just how valuable our fishery really is. I was thrilled with this year's trout opener as I was able to fish for some beautiful bows with my Brother-in-law and his daughter. At her age I would have struggled to see any Rainbow Trout. She has

now seen more Rainbows in one day than I did in 15 years of my life. This would have not been possible without volunteer interest and sponsorship in the MEA programs.

By Jeremy Green



Stocking out Rainbow trout from The Ringwood F.C.S.

Community Newsletter

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. 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.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



Rapala®



Tightline
Fisherman's
Warehouse

CLOSA

Central Lake Ontario
Sport Anglers

Friends of the Environment Foundation



Our website is currently a work in progress so please be patient. It can be found at the following address:

<http://www.metroeastanglers.com>

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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Please visit our online forum at:
<http://ringwoodfcs.proboards.com>