

Stocking Program Successful...Biologist

By Greg Huneault
the News

Last Friday, 25,000 Lake trout moved to a new home in a matter of minutes.

The yearling trout were transported to the Hydro dam in Terrace Bay and unceremoniously transplanted into the freezing water of Lake Superior.

As part of the Lake Superior Rehabilitation Program, this batch hitched a ride on the back of a

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) truck in tanks supplied with oxygen from the Dorion Fish Hatchery.

Linda Melnyk-Ferguson, district biologist with the MNR, said the ministry has undertaken a 10-year program to re-introduce Lake trout into Lake Superior.

She told the News the Lake trout population has been depleted due to various factors and influences.

very competitive struggle

The introduction of foreign species such as lamprey and smelt have had a negative effect on the Lake trout's ability to live in the great lake. They must compete with these species for food and space.

According to the MNR, Lake trout are slow-growing and don't reach a mature age for about six to eight years.

Females do not spawn every year in northern lakes because of the short growing season. In such cases, spawning every second year is typical.

The fragile fish has very specific requirements and cannot tolerate a lot of environmental stress. Their ability to adapt to changes is low.

So is the number of lakes inhabited by this species. MNR estimates that Lake trout are found in only 2100 of the more than 250,000 lakes in the province.

Melnyk-Ferguson said the local program is "helping a lot."

The program has been going on for 10 years in this area, and the biologist referred to surveys done at Rosspport as an indication that the program has been successful.

Fish raised in a hatchery have one of their fins clipped before being released.

This is to help identify hatchery-raised fish which are caught, so that the MNR can figure out the number of hatchery raised fish and the number of 'native' fish in an area.

'Native' fish are fish which were not raised in a hatchery, and an increase in the number of native fish is an indication that the species is able to survive and reproduce.

Melnyk-Ferguson referred to a 1982 survey conducted at Rosspport, which found 95 per cent of fish taken were clipped, or hatchery-raised fish.

Rosspport survey successful

In a 1986-87 survey, 75-80 per cent of the fish taken were native fish, indicating that the stocking program was successful. The Lake trout were apparently able to live and reproduce.

The Terrace Bay MNR district encompasses an area from Gravel River on the west, to past Cedar Lake by Manitouwadge on the east. Its southern limit is the Canada/US border in Lake Superior.

The stocking of Lake trout in Superior is for commercial and sport fishing, said Melnyk-Ferguson.

She gave the News an estimate of a 50 per cent mortality rate, but said that was an over-estimate so that the ministry does not understock. The mortality rate is the amount of fish expected to die.

Before they even have a chance

to leave the Hydro dam area, many of them will be picked out of the water by sea gulls, or eaten by other species of fish.

It is almost impossible to determine how much the program costs, if one were to base it on a per-fish price.

Peter Richards, manager of the Dorion Fish Hatchery said it becomes a very difficult task when one takes into account depreciation of equipment and salaries.

"It's very complex. I don't even want to hazard a guess," he told the News.

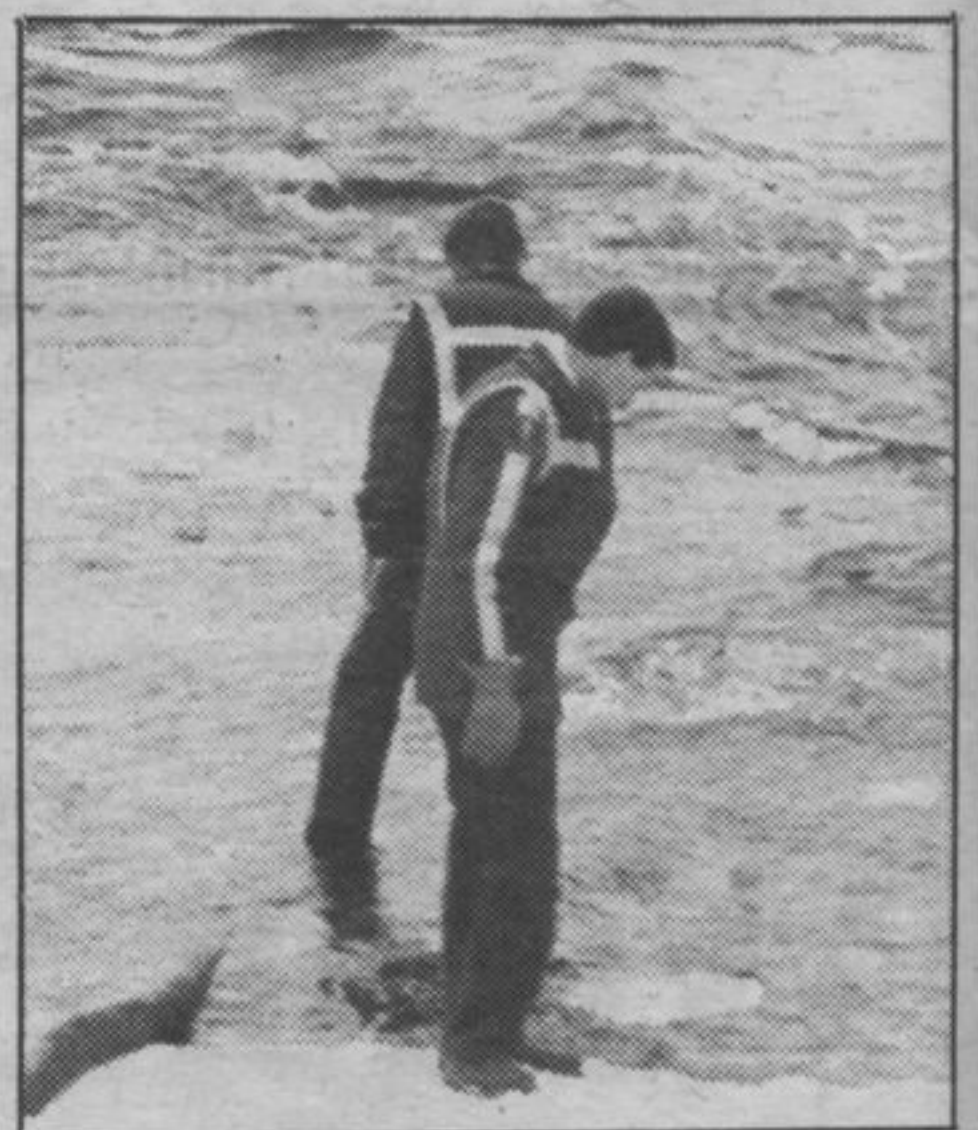
Along with Lake trout, the hatchery also raises Brook and Speckle trout, along with a combination of Lake and Speckle called Splake.

Stocking costs vary

A spokesman for the MNR's Fish Culture Section told the News that the price-per-fish for Lake trout can vary anywhere from a low of 25 cents to a high of 57 cents.

On a kilogram-per-species basis, he said that it could vary anywhere between a low of \$6.40 to a high of \$32.00.

He stated that 11 million fish are raised in 15 facilities around the province, and are comprised of 12 species. The MNR stocks all four Great Lakes which come within its borders, and 65 per cent of total stocking programs involve the Great Lakes.



Conservation Officers Tom Logan and Mike Kenny giving the Lake trout a helping hand.
Photo by Greg Huneault

Ontario MGS
Ministry of Government Services TENDER

JANITORIAL CONTRACTORS

Tenders are invited for a two year janitorial contract, Ministry of Natural Resources, District Office Bldg., Terrace Bay, Ontario

JOB NO. 177A-NR-B14421

Note: A pre-tender site visit will be held on April 12/88 at 1:30 p.m.

Tender documents may be obtained from:

Ministry of Government Services, District Office, 500 Algoma Street North, P.O. Box 3020, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B-5GS.

Sealed tenders will be received until 3:00 P.M.

APRIL 19, 1988 at which time they will be opened in public. TENDER CLOSING IN THUNDER BAY.

Note: For further information please contact: Miss C. McDonald Ministry of Government Services, Thunder Bay, Ontario. Telephone (807) 475-1285. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TVOntario needs you

TVOntario's Northwestern Regional Council asks for applications from the Schreiber and Terrace Bay areas to join its advisory council. TVO's 75 volunteer regional councillors, in five councils, meet regularly in their regions to advise TVOntario on their communities' needs and to increase awareness of TVO's programs and services. They also help organize local workshops and meetings on the use of the educational television services.

TVOntario regional councillors are appointed for terms of up to three years, renewable once.

If you wish to volunteer or would like to nominate someone, please send résumés by 30 March 1988 to:

TVOntario
c/o Suzanne Grew Ellis
Box 200, Station Q
Toronto M4T 2T1
Tel.: 1-800-387-8450 ext. 2615

TVOntario a besoin de vous

TVOntario recherche des bénévoles des régions de Schreiber et Terrace Bay pour siéger à son Conseil régional du Nord-Ouest. Les 75 membres bénévoles des cinq conseils régionaux de TVOntario se réunissent à intervalles réguliers, chacun dans sa région, et représentent les intérêts de leur collectivité auprès de TVOntario tout en tenant leurs communautés au courant des émissions et des services de TVO. Ils participent également à l'organisation de réunions et d'ateliers d'utilisation de la télévision éducative.

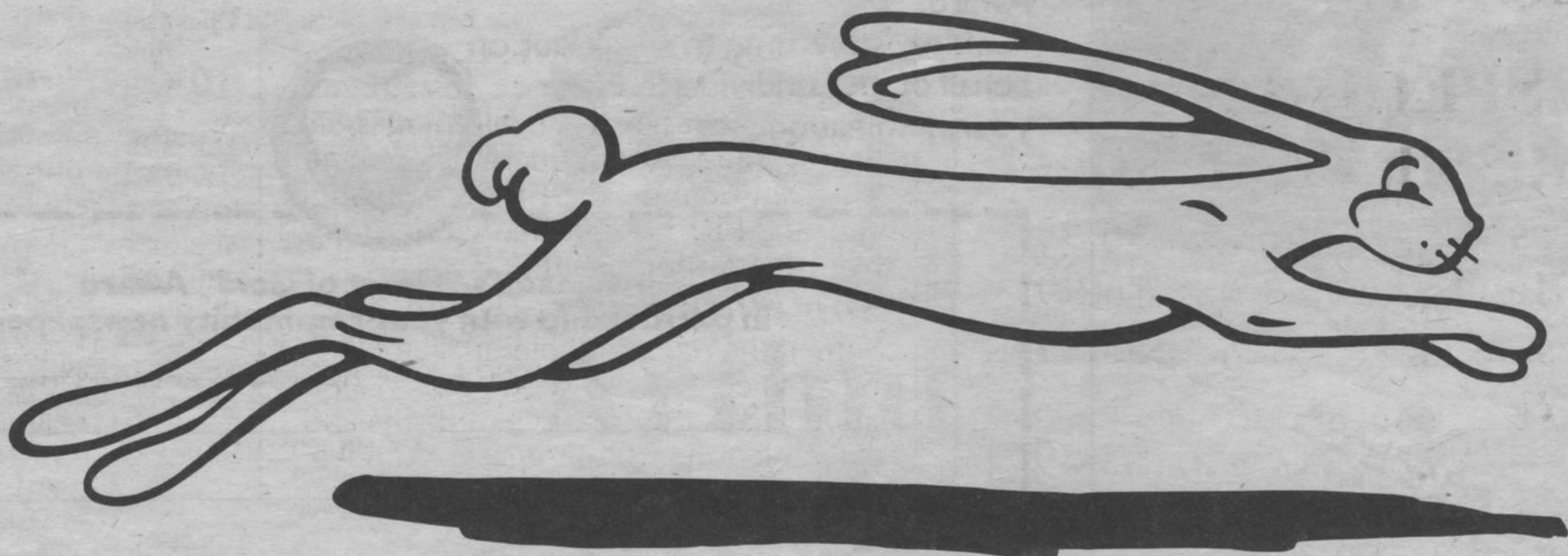
Les membres des conseils régionaux sont nommés pour une période de trois ans, mandat renouvelable une seule fois.

Devenez membre du Conseil régional du Nord-Ouest dès aujourd'hui.

Les curriculum vitae des candidats — vous-même ou un autre bénévole dont vous voudriez nous soumettre le nom — doivent être expédiés avant le 30 mars 1988 à l'adresse suivante :

TVOntario
a/s de Suzanne Grew Ellis
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Toronto (Ontario)
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Greyhound Canada 