

Salmon and trout get help from bypass channel

In preceding years the presence of a dam on the Rouge River at the Parkview Golf course created a small hurdle for migrating rainbow trout, brown trout and Chinook salmon to clear in their efforts to reach upstream spawning grounds.

That situation will change for the better this fall when Chinook salmon and brown trout begin their annual upstream pilgrimage.

Making their migration run a much easier journey

was the creation and completion of a bypass channel last week.

Measuring some 20 metres in length, the bypass channel was constructed around the outside portion of the existing barrier which is some 1.5 metres in height.

"Instead of a vertical drop there is a 20-metre long riffle which will take the base flow of the river and anything above that spills over the dam," said Mark



Outdoors

Mike Hayakawa

Heaton, a Ministry of Natural Resources spokesman from the Aurora District Office in describing the bypass channel.

The project, which took three days to complete, consisted basically of excavating the bypass channel, placing stone in the riverbed and then reinforcing the shoreline area. One-third of the work, Heaton cited, was done in a day.

"Once we got the excavator in it didn't take that long," noted Heaton of the labor involved.

The bypass channel's effectiveness received an early baptism as workers last week carried out construction during the

heavy rain that fell on the area. "The river came up while we were working," recalled Heaton. "The bypass channel performed fine."

ELECTROSHOCKING WORK

In addition to completing the bypass channel on the Rouge, Heaton revealed the ministry was still carrying out some additional projects on this Lake Ontario watershed.

Last week, the ministry conducted some electroshocking work at the Parkview Golf Club for evidence of rainbow trout, brown trout and atlantic salmon fry.

These salmonids were injected into the river earlier this year after being reared in incubation boxes on the golf club site.

"What we want to see is the growth rates of these fry from the time we planted them back in the spring," said Heaton.



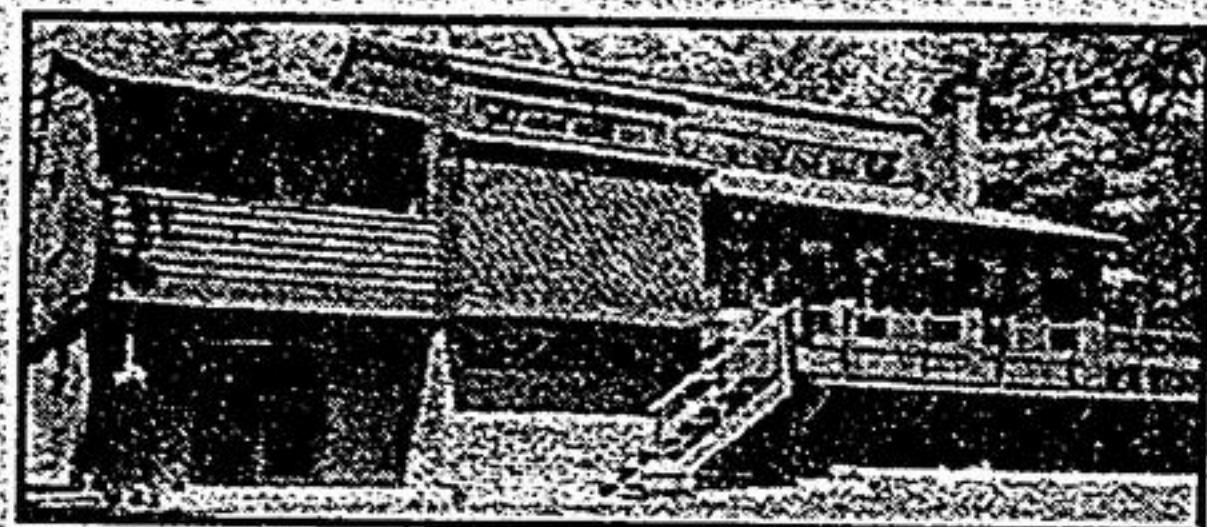
A LABOUR OF LOVE: Mark Heaton, a Ministry of Natural Resources biologist (far left), checks out some of the work carried out on the creation of a bypass channel at the Parkview Golf Club site on the Rouge River. Looking on are Jim Bamford, Parkview Golf Club owner (centre) and Tim Clarridge. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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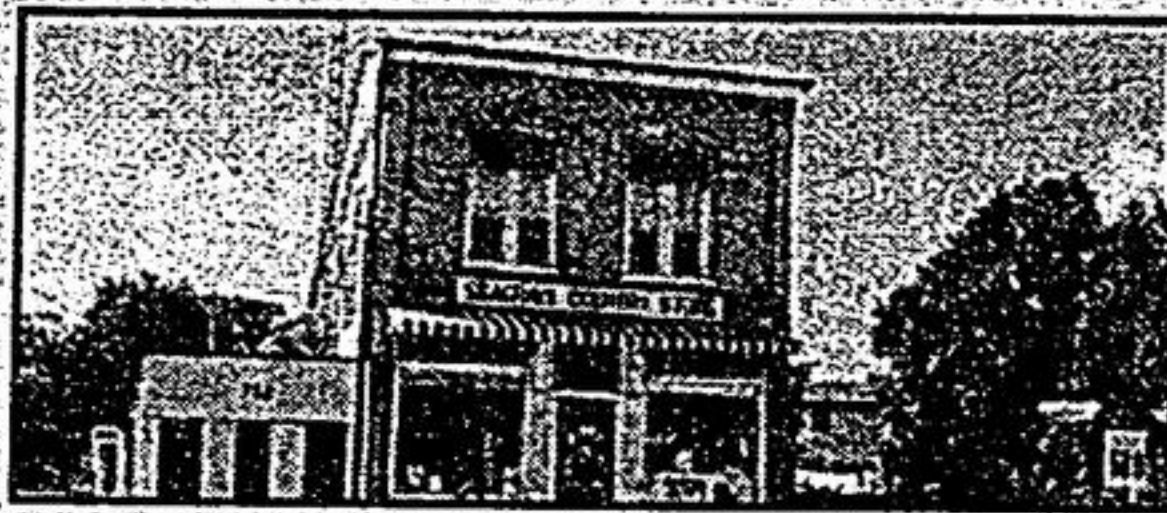
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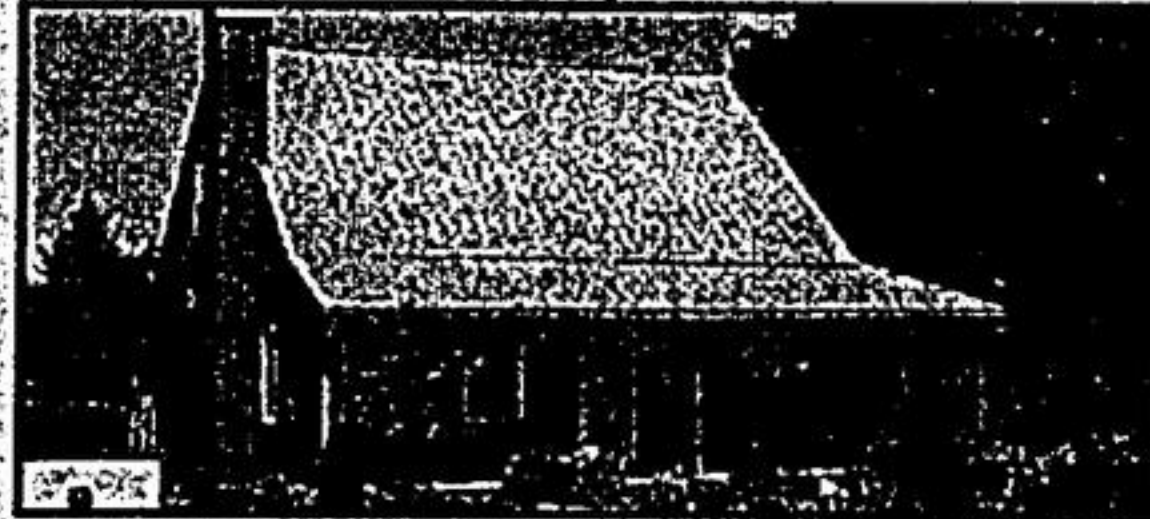
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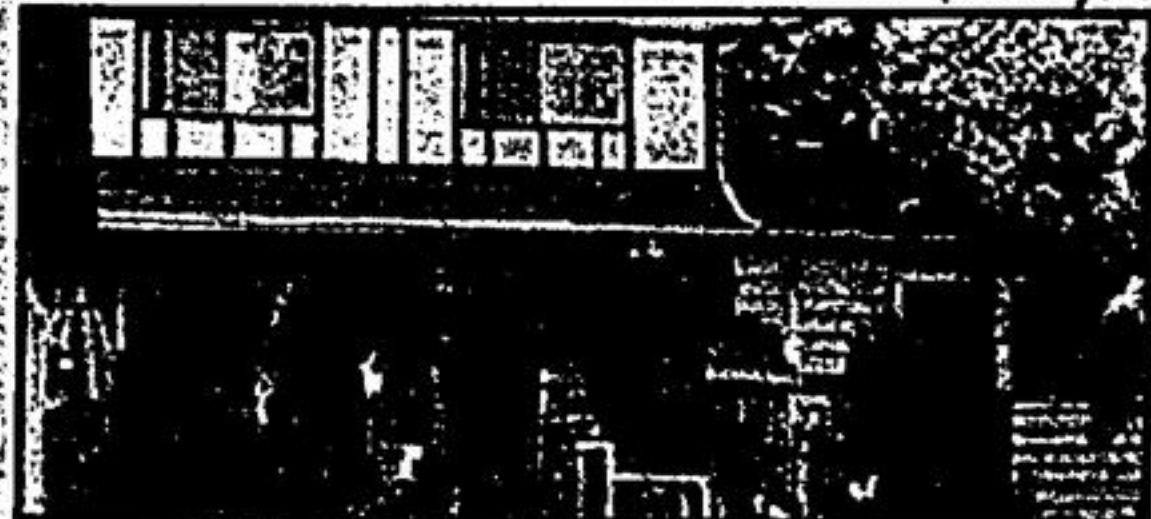
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