

Warm up to some good early steelhead action



Outdoors

Mike Hayakama

While El Nino has caused havoc in certain parts of North America it has been a blessing in disguise in these neck of the woods - especially to the ardent steelheader.

The early spring-like conditions that began in earnest in late February has opened up streams that empty into Lake Ontario a good week or two earlier than normal.

For the steelheading enthusiast that signals the start of the annual spring run of migratory rainbow trout known by local piscators as the steelhead in feeder streams providing year-round angling in areas south of the CN railroad tracks below Hwy 401.

If you haven't had the opportunity to get in on some of the early-season action you might want to soon.

Some good catches have already been reported in popular watersheds like Oshawa Creek, Bowmanville Creek, Duffin Creek, the Rouge and Ganaraska River.

A successful outing can depend heavily on when and where one wets a line. First and last light hours are most productive times to catch fish either off rivermouth areas or upstream.

When fishing rivers, hone in on deep pools. It is these places where fish will hold up during the day before venturing upstream.

As for what to catch these fish on, it does not hurt to have spawn - preferably from rainbow trout. And the fresher the bait the better the odds will weigh in your favour of getting

into some action. Tie your spawn bags to nickle or dime-sized proportions.

It also helps to keep in mind that because water clarity during this period is offcoloured due to the high silt content, tie your spawn in bright coloured, eye catching, nylon mesh such as hot pink or chartreuse.

Your spawn bags can then be suspended off a float or bounced along the bottom. Those who prefer to fish from piers will quite often place tiny pieces of styrofoam in their spawn bags to enable them to stay off the lake bottom.

DON'T NEGLECT ARTIFICIAL BAITS

Although spawn is the prime bait to employ, don't hesitate to try other baits when fish have contacted lock-jaw - especially during mid-day periods.

Artificial offerings like Michigan wigglers can be run the same way as a spawn bag - bounced off bottom or run off a float.

Wobbling plugs like a skunk coloured K5 Kwifish can be lethal when positioned above a deep pool and dropped back into where fish could be sitting.

The wobbling action can aggravate a fish to strike it with a huge degree of aggressiveness.

During this time of the year, when heavy rains take place, rivers can be washed out and become unfishable.

When this happens, patience becomes a virtue. It might take a day or two but once rivers begin to recede is the time to be on the water as the fish are continually drawn in from Lake Ontario during this time of the year to begin their spring spawning foray.

Knowing a watershed's draining

characteristics will help you hone in on which rivers will become more fishable first.

If you are uncertain as to which watersheds are closed until the traditional opening on the last Saturday of April, be sure to get a copy of this year's angling regulations and read them thoroughly.



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TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

GET INVOLVED IN PLANNING YOUR COMMUNITY

To assist Council in preparing the Vandorf Preston Lake Secondary Plan, Council has established an Advisory Committee made up of three members of Council and six residents of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville residents interested in planning for the growth of the Communities of Vandorf and Preston Lake are invited to submit an application for an appointment to the Advisory Committee. Application forms may be obtained at the Clerk's Department, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Application forms should be delivered in person or by mail, by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 1998, to the Clerk's Department.

Personal information is collected under the legal authority of the Municipal Act, R.S.O., 1990, c.M.45 and will be used to determine eligibility for appointment.

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1998 INTERIM TAXES

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MARCH 11, 1998

If you have not received a tax bill and you are responsible for payment, contact the Tax Section immediately to obtain the necessary information 905-852-9181 or 905-649-1938.

Payments not received by March 11th, 1998 are subject to a penalty charge of 1.25% on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month thereafter until paid.

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE

BANKS: CIBC Branches in Uxbridge, Stouffville, Claremont
TD Branches in Uxbridge and Mount Albert

DO NOT USE BANK MACHINES

Telephone Banking: Please check with your bank for availability. Individual Banking Fees may apply.

BY MAIL: Post Dated Cheques Accepted

IN PERSON: At the Tax Department - Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

AFTER HOURS DROP BOX: Located at the Front of the Municipal Building in the Parking Lot

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Catherine Goldstone
Tax Collector

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