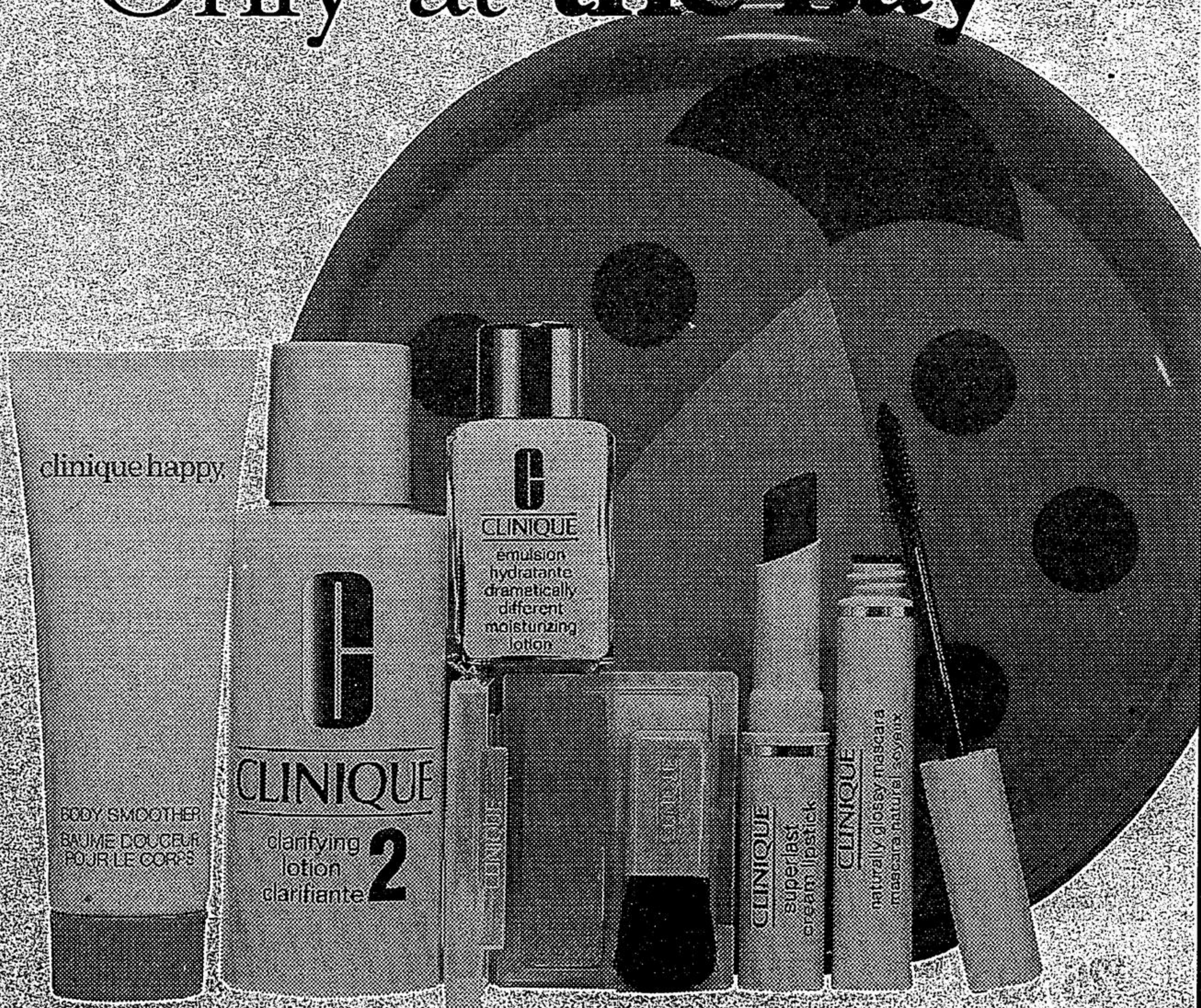




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Offer ends Saturday, May 8. One bonus per customer, while quantities last.

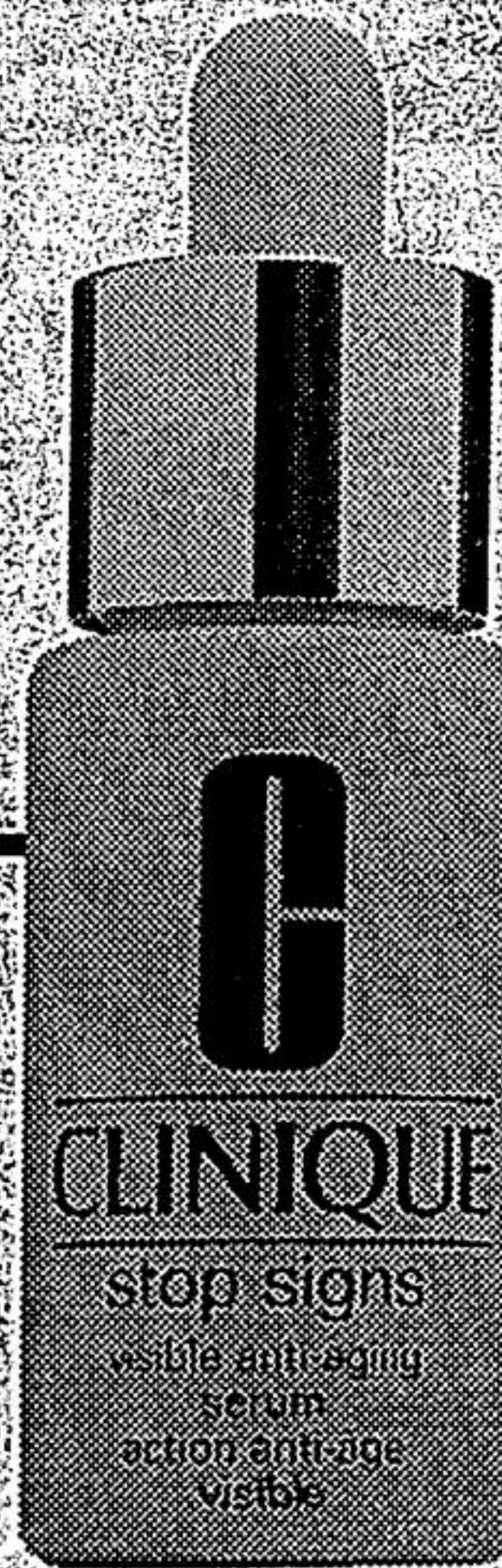
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OUTDOORS

Trout season starts Saturday

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Slim pickings might be the best phrase to describe last year's opening day of rainbow trout fishing along the upper reaches of the Rouge River and Duffin Creek.

This year's opening, which takes place at the stroke of midnight tomorrow, could provide a different story for York Region and area anglers.

And for those making plans to wet a line in Saturday's opener, it might provide some welcome news.

"I've seen a fair number of fish throughout most of the reaches," Mark Russell, a Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officer from the Aurora District, said of his observations earlier this week.

Russell noted the mild spring temperatures last month triggered initial runs of migratory rainbow trout from Lake Ontario to their spring spawning grounds.

A good number of fish have already spawned and are residing in deep holding pools, he said.

Those spawning can be found paired up on shallow, gravel beds.

A problem, though, is the lack of rain which has produced low water levels.

Russell predicted the onset of any meaningful periods of rain should send any spawned out fish back towards Lake Ontario.

Artificial lures like number three silver Vibrax or Mepps spinners, skunk-finished wobbling plugs or flies like a Woolly Buggler or spring wigglers, can produce some action.

However, Russell said he has recently seen some fish still attempting to make their way upstream to spawn.

"There were still some fish coming up at the mouth of Duffin Creek three to four days ago," he observed.

For those making plans to partake in Saturday's opener, Russell suggests patience will be the key to success.

"While some spots might not hold fish, others will. There's stretches of rivers with lots of fish."

Donning a set of polarized sun glasses can help you spot fish in any potential holding areas.

Drifting natural baits on bottom or suspended off a float like dime-sized spawn bags, hard-boiled single salmon eggs, dew worms or wax worms off of a number 12 or 14 hook tied to fine diameter leader material into deep pools should entice a few strikes.

As well, artificial lures like number three silver or gold Vibrax or Mepps spinners, skunk-finished wobbling plugs or flies like a Woolly Buggler or spring wigglers, can produce some action.

Anglers should take note of any private property and have written permission if they plan on entering.

Any litter should be placed in a garbage container and not dumped onto someone's property.

Those who are between the ages of 18 and 65 require an Outdoors Card with an updated seasonal or conservation fishing licence attached to the back of the card.