

Volunteers, sponsors rescue Ringwood fish hatchery

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have a kids fishing day or we could convert one of our storage buildings into an education centre or even the existing visitors centre could become an education centre," he said.

Tours for schools and the public are high on the list.

Most of all, though, he's appreciative of the assistance he has received from the Metro East Anglers, whose members work at the hatchery three nights a week. However, he said their presence might have to increase once the eggs hatch.

"We've been getting lots of help. I couldn't have done it without them," he said.

'The sky's the limit.

There's lots of plans in the works.'

The hatchery, which features 27 two-metre tanks, 11 four-metre tanks and three six-metre tanks, first opened its doors in 1980.

Bluett said plans call for 545,000 chinook salmon to be seeded as fingerlings in various Lake Ontario feeder streams during the spring.

As well, another 30,000 to 40,000 Atlantic salmon are expected to be planted in Lake Ontario feeder streams

as part of a project to restore fish once native to this body of water.

Last year, the Ringwood hatchery helped produce 460,000 Atlantic salmon now in Lake Ontario.

'This is an appreciation of fish culture in Ontario.

If it wasn't for the dedication of some people, this mindset wouldn't have happened.'

In addition to pacific and Atlantic salmon, there are 17,000 rainbow trout being reared. Next spring, they hope to get another 150,000 rainbow trout eggs to rear during the annual collection period in April.

And within one week, they expect to get 150,000 brown trout eggs to rear and release as yearlings in the spring or fall of 2008.

The federation notes the importance of Ringwood's existence in stocking chinook salmon along with some rainbow trout, brown trout and Atlantic salmon into Lake Ontario over the next several years contributes significantly to the lakes' \$140 million recreational fishery.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

A young salmon raised at the Ringwood Fish Culture Station swims in the visitors centre Tuesday as officials announce the facility will remain open. Once owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the hatchery will be operated by volunteers and sponsors through a unique program. Tours will be available for the public and schools.

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