

Trout back on anglers' menu

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

This is the day many die-hard anglers look forward to with eager anticipation, because trout from York Region streams is now fair game.

It may be a particularly good day if you plan to try your luck on the Rouge River. This year's long winter means the annual fish pilgrimage from Lake Ontario was delayed until water temperatures increased.

"We're still getting lots of fish coming up," Natural Resources Ministry biologist Mark Heaton said.

Heaton estimated close to 150 have moved through the Milne Dam Fish ladder in Markham with some weighing as much as seven kilograms.

That, he said, is more than what came through the fish ladder at the same time a year ago.

"We're still getting ripe (fish ready to spawn) and green (pre-spawn) fish moving through. This should be a bumper year," Heaton predicted.

Anyone intending to fish the Rouge near the fish ladder



WIL WEGMAN: Ministry spokesperson says if you're fishing Lake Simcoe, go to shallow areas.

should take note they must stay 25 metres below the ladder.

While many anglers are expected to focus on the river near Steeles Avenue and Ninth Line, he noted fish searching for spawning areas migrate as far north as Leslie Street and Major Mackenzie Drive in Richmond Hill.

A variety of baits will work on rainbow or brown trout. Salmon or rainbow trout spawn tied in

mouth bass.

The plan is to create 20 spawning beds or nests, using river rock from a building materials supplier, Bassmasters secretary Duane Gonsalves said.

The group, which does at least one fish conservation project annually, got a provincial grant of almost \$1,000 to cover costs. It's the first Bassmasters project in the Markham area.

E-mail hawgtown@gmail.com or check out www.eteamz.com/HawgtownBassmasters for more information.

— Mike Hayakawa

► Check out www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/ for further regulation information.

dime-sized coloured sacks, garden worms, maggots or meal worms are among the more popular live baits that can be run by bottom bouncing or suspended techniques.

Among the proven artificial offerings are flies, jig flies, number 2 or 3 Mepps or Vibrax spinners, flatfish and small one-eighth ounce tube jigs in white or chartreuse.

Wearing polarized sunglasses can assist you in locating potential holding spots these fish might inhabit.

While streams are expected to be congested with anglers today, another option is to go to Lake Simcoe for yellow perch.

Yellow perch action has been in full swing since Simcoe shedded its ice.

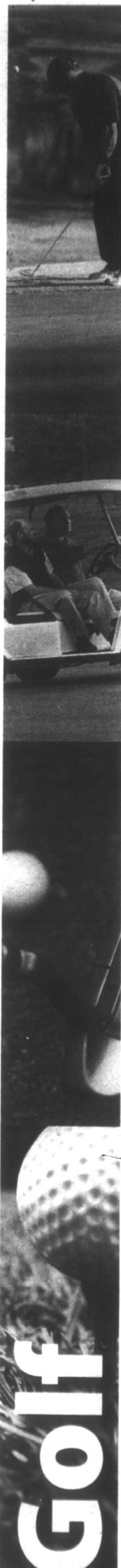
Based on customer feedback, Tom Cheng of Angling Specialties in Concord noted good catches are being made off Jackson's Point.

While lacking in size, smaller fish up to seven and eight inches have also been caught from shore in the Holland and Jersey rivers, he added.

For anglers with a boat, Natural Resources Ministry spokesperson Wil Wegman suggested searching for shallow areas with adjacent inflow areas or back bays.

"Even areas with a little bits of current at points off islands," he added.

If you are going out on the waters this weekend, you should have a residential angling licence and be sure to check the possession limits if you keep any fish.



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