

# Ringwood fish hatchery gets one-year extension

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The Ringwood Fish Culture Station remains alive and well.

At least for one more year.

With the 120-acre fish rearing facility's lease set to expire last month, a one-year extension was granted through an agreement reached by the Metro East Anglers Association and Ministry of Natural Resources.

Bruce Burt, an association spokesperson, said Ringwood will continue to rear coho salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout.

Once ready to be released, the fish will be seeded into Lake Ontario watersheds, primarily within the GTA where natural reproduction is deemed low, Mr. Burt said.

With the coho salmon spawning run near completion this fall, Mr. Burt said some 138,000 eggs were recently procured primarily from the Credit River and are currently resting comfortably in hatchery incubator trays.

The association is an officially registered Canadian charity whose members operate the station, on Hwy. 48 north of Bethesda Road, on a volunteer basis.

## VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

"The numbers (of eggs collected) seem to be growing each year so our efforts are paying off," he said.

Within three to four weeks, Mr. Burt noted those eggs should be at the eye up stage.

From the cohos reared from their 2011 egg

collection, Burt said they recently released 18,000 yearlings of an average size of 33 grams back into the Credit River.

In placing these fish into the Credit River, Burt said the purpose is to build up their numbers to enhance the current sport fishery.

## NUMBERS OF EGGS GROWING

In turn, that would provide a good source for the collection of eggs, Burt added.

In coming weekends, association members will also be injecting brown trout raised at Ringwood into the Rouge River and a few other locations around the GTA.

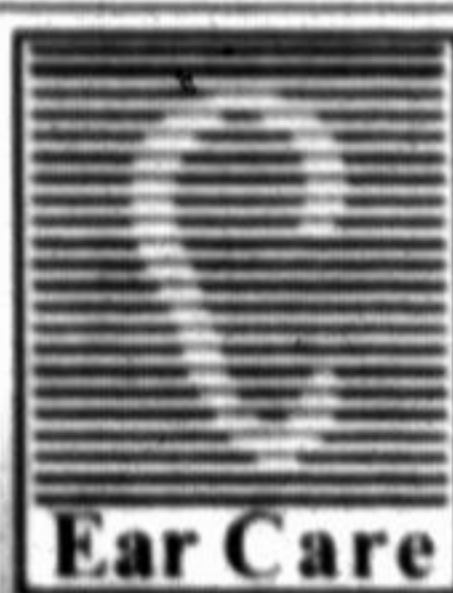
Receiving brown trout eggs from the ministry's brood stock, Ringwood currently has just under 40,000 in their hatchery tanks.

"We also have 5,000 browns which we will also be stocking at Wellington to support the growing brown trout fishery that is developing in that area," Mr. Burt said.

Collecting their own rainbow eggs from the Rouge River this past spring, he said they have 17,000 in capacity at Ringwood and will be stocked next spring as yearlings.

As for Ringwood's future, Mr. Burt hopes his members can continue to build on what they currently are doing.

He revealed their association is currently in discussion with the ministry about the possibility of adding wild Atlantic salmon to the mix once that program reaches a point where some wild eggs can be collected.



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