

OUTDOORS

Salmon find saviours in Ringwood fish hatchery volunteers

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Something fishy was going on at the Ringwood Fish Culture Centre last weekend.

A dozen volunteers with the Metro East Anglers gathered at the facility in Whitchurch-Stouffville early Saturday morning despite the crisp autumn temperature to begin transporting 50,000 Coho salmon to the Credit River.

It has been one year since the current crop of fish came to the hatchery as eggs, according to Metro East Angler Bruce Burt.

"The program is completely volunteer driven," he said. "If we didn't stock, Coho salmon would disappear from the north shore of Ontario."

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While the hatchery also stocks rainbow and brown trout, it is the only one in the province stocking Coho salmon.

The program began in Markham in 2006 and moved to the current location, on Hwy. 48 later between Stouffville and Bloomington roads, that year when the Ministry of Natural Resources slated the facility for closure. The anglers struck a partnership to resume opera-

tion on a volunteer basis at the location.

"There isn't a government program to stock these fish," angler Bruce Burt said.

"During the two-year gap between the ministry's program and ours, Coho salmon disappeared from the Credit River."

The process is lengthy and labour intensive, he added. The eggs and sperm are collected from the Credit River, brought back to the facility and fertilized on site. Many eggs fail to be fertilized or die in the process, so volunteers must manually remove them often to prevent harm to the healthy eggs.

The eggs are fertilized in batches using one mother and one father so if health testing reveals disease, the batch can be disposed of.

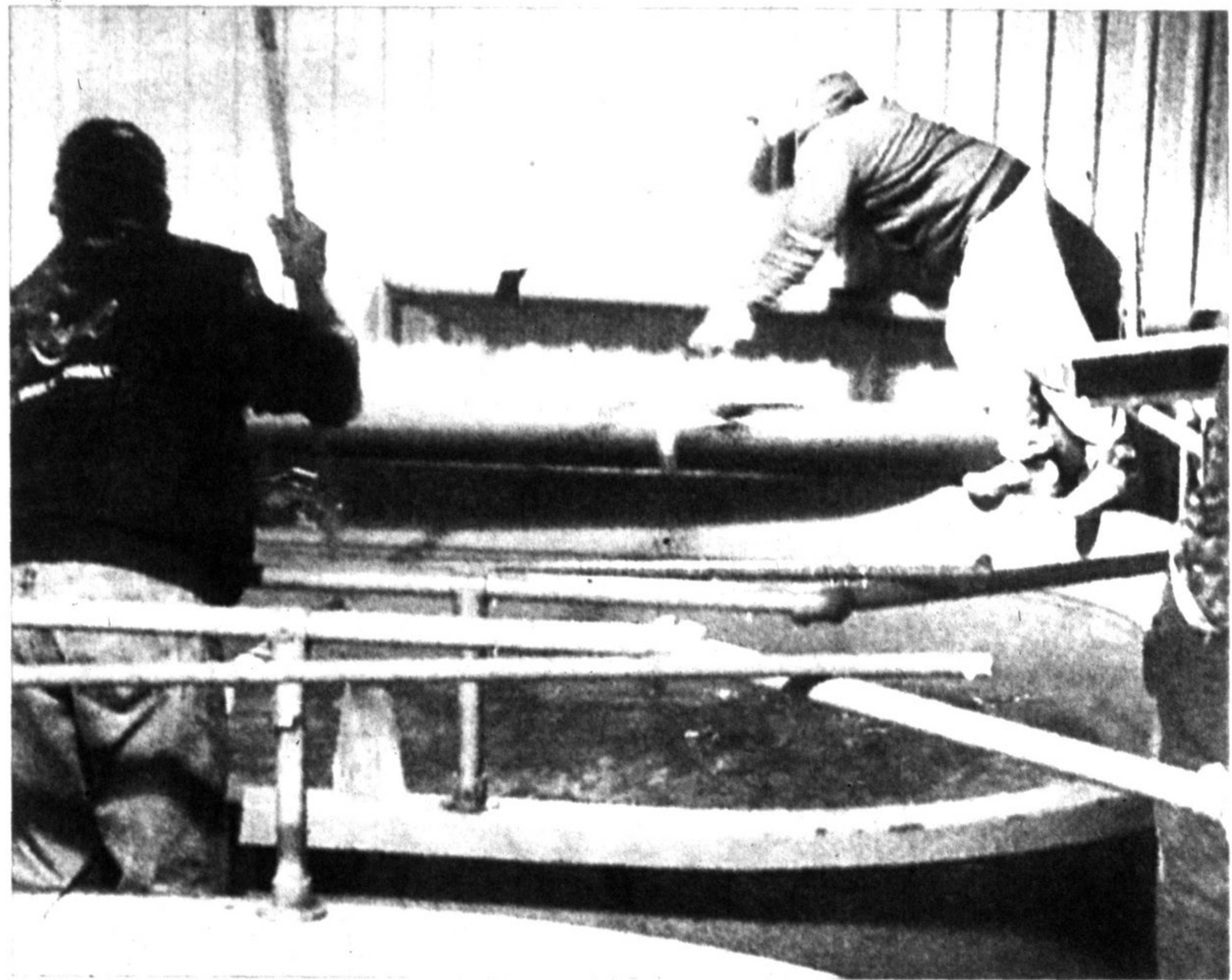
"We've never had to do that but we don't want to introduce a disease into the river," Burt said.

Once the eggs hatch, the minnows are moved from the incubators to an early rearing fish tank to be transitioned to real food.

Once they are aggressive feeders, they move into an advanced rearing tank where the water is kept at 9 C and is changed every hour since salmon are sensitive to temperature and oxygen levels in the water.

They remain in these tanks while they grow until they are a year old and weigh 20 grams. This year's batch exceeded the weight goal, meaning a better chance of survival.

For more information or to get involved, visit metroeastanglers.com



STAFF PHOTO/TERESA LATCHFORD

Metro East Angler volunteers net Coho salmon at the Ringwood Fish Culture Station Saturday morning from an advanced rearing tank to transport to the Credit River.

Geiger to wear 'C' at Clarkson as NCAA seasons begin

Paul Geiger was bestowed with the honour of being named captain for the Clarkson University men's ice hockey team for the upcoming National Collegiate Athletic Association season.

The 22-year-old Stouffville resident who is in his junior year served as an assistant captain last season.

During his sophomore campaign, the Stouffville Spirit graduate, who toils on the blueline, compiled five goals and 12 assists in 42 games.

In other NCAA action, former Spirit forward Matt Neal tuned up for his senior campaign at Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute by scoring a goal in RPI's 5-2 win over the University of Prince Edward Island in an exhibition contest at Troy, N.Y. Saturday.

With the score tied at 1-1 late in the first period, Neal scored with 47 seconds remaining until the intermission to put RPI ahead for good.

Last season, Neal, 22, was RPI's third-leading scorer with 10 goals and 27 assists.

Former Spirit forward Drake Caggiula, 20, earned one assist in the University of North Dakota's 4-0 win over the University of Manitoba in an exhibition contest at Grand

Forks Sunday.

Entering his junior campaign, Caggiula's helper came on the game's first goal by Luke Johnson on the power play in the first period.

Last season, which saw the University of North Dakota reach the Frozen Four, Caggiula amassed 11 goals and 13 assists in 42 games.

Entering this season, the University of North Dakota are ranked second in the NCAA preseason polls.

Caggiula and Geiger played on the Spirit's 2012 OJHL championship team

At the University of Michigan, former Spirit defenceman Brennan Serville began his senior season by earning an assist in the Wolverines' 4-3 loss to the Ferris State University Bulldogs in their opening game in Big Rapids, Mich. Saturday.

Serville, 21, is currently in his senior year at the Ann Arbor, Mich.-based school and was a third-round draft pick of the Winnipeg Jets in the 2011 National Hockey League entry draft.

Svabalasingham takes title

Gajan Sivabalasingham shot rounds of four-under 68 and six-

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under 65 to capture the individual title and help the University of Waterloo Warriors men's golf team claim the silver medal at the University of Waterloo Invitational at Rebel Creek and Grey Silo Golf Club's in Waterloo last weekend.

The two-round combined scores posted by the 20-year-old Ballant-rae resident and fourth-year member of the Warriors' golf team under cold and windy conditions was also a tournament record.

A total of 87 players competed in the two-day event.

As a team, the Warriors finished two strokes behind the University of Toronto.

Lofthouse helps Markham enter McCormick Cup semis

Jesse Lofthouse played an instrumental role in helping the Markham Irish Canadian Rugby Football Club

men's firsts advance to the Ontario Rugby Union McCormick Cup semifinals with an 18-17 road win over Stoney Creek in their quarter-final match Saturday.

The Stouffville resident and Stouffville District Secondary School graduate scored one try for Markham, who are the defending McCormick Cup champions.

Markham will next face Toronto Scottish at Fletcher's Field Oct. 26 at 3 p.m.

Minor hockey to run goalie, skills clinics

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association is running an introductory goaltending clinic at the Stouffville Arena's Pad B Oct. 15.

Open to association members who currently play in the atom or IP+ divisions and is free for those participants, the clinic will be run in conjunction with the Carson Bird Goalie School.

Equipment is supplied for the one-hour session beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is required and

spaces are limited.

For those interested in registering, e-mail: stouffville.houseleague@gmail.com

The minor hockey association will conduct a skills development program at the Stouffville Arena under the direction of senior instructor Steve Smith.

A Junior Skills development program catering to youngsters between the ages of six to nine currently registered in the association will commence Nov. 12 and run for five weeks concluding Dec. 10.

All sessions will be held on Pad B starting at 5:15 p.m.

Total cost for the five-week session is \$100.

A maximum of 20 players per program will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis.

Smith's resume includes coaching in the association and Markham Waxers AAA organization along with being an instructor with Total Hockey Skills and the Markham-Stouffville Stars.

Participants may register through the association hockey office at 905-642-2835.

For further information, log on to: www.wsmha.com