

Ringwood hatches 45K coho salmon for Lake Ontario

MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

It was a case of out with the old and making way for the new at the Ringwood Fish Culture Station last weekend.

With close to 20 volunteer members from the Metro East Anglers rearing coho salmon at the Ringwood-based hatchery, some 45,000 juvenile coho salmon were removed from their rearing tanks and transported via truck to the upper reaches of the Credit River near Norval where they were then released into the main-stream.

It's all part of a joint project between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Metro East Anglers with the hope of re-establishing an annual coho salmon run in the Credit River.

East Anglers spokesman, noted the project included four separate trips made between the Ringwood Fish Culture Station and the Credit River.

With the rain and cool temperatures experienced during their annual project, he said it made for perfect weather to seed the new inhabitants, weighing anywhere from 20 to 30 grams, into their new place of residency.

Once in the river, the fish will gradually work their way downstream towards Lake Ontario where they spend the summer months seeking forage before returning to their native rivers as mature adults.

To date, Baltovich was quick to point out, the program has been successful based on increased numbers of fish returning each fall to their original stocking site to reproduce.

When the fish make their return to the Credit River, Metro East Anglers members converge at the Reid Milling dam near Streetsville to collect eggs and milt.

From there the eggs are then transported to the Ringwood Fish Culture Station to begin the incubation and rearing process throughout the winter, spring and summer months where members of the Metro East Anglers assist in monitoring.

With the rearing tanks now empty, Baltovich said their group is scheduled to begin collecting coho salmon eggs later this month.

"It's truly a team effort, right from egg collection at the river last fall, nurturing the salmon through the hatch into alevin, right up to this stage of release as juveniles," he said.

"I didn't expect to feel so comfortable here."



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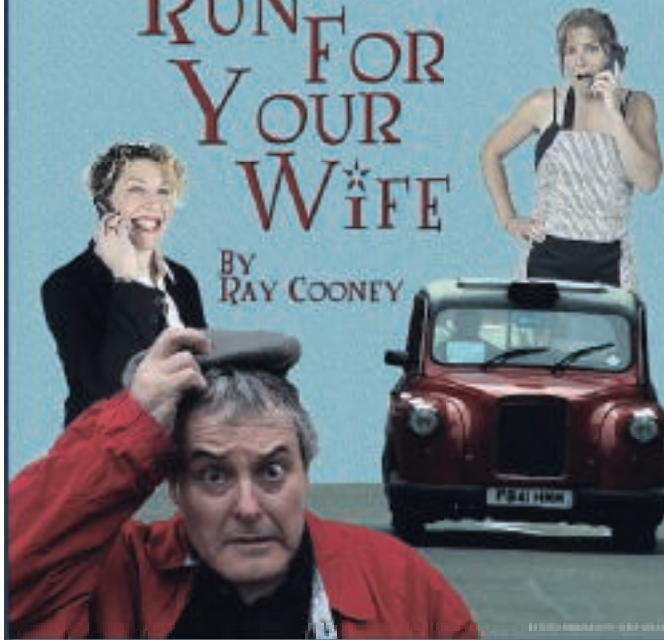
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