

2007 Update



2007 was the second full year of operation for the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC). The Council is pleased with many accomplishments, most particularly the continued forging of partnerships and collaborative actions with a multitude of community and environmental interest groups. We duly recognize our partners and volunteers as the real 'worker-bees' of EGBSC.

Here's what we, our partners and volunteers accomplished in 2007:

1. Lake Stewardship Workshop: This year's workshop theme was *Lake Plans and the Municipal Planning Process*. Participants included over 50 representatives from 23 cottage associations and two municipal councils. Professional speakers treated the participants to informative and insightful presentations on the social and ecological impacts of cumulative lakeshore developments as well as actions they could take to influence and control such development.



2. Invasive Species Awareness Project: This public outreach and education program was funded through a cooperative partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR). We were delighted to have Erin Hamlin as the project coordinator. Erin attended 20 cottage association meetings, 3 public school, 6 local clubs and 10 community events as well as producing several written articles relating to the introduction and environmental dangers of invasive species.



3. Smallmouth Bass Nest Creation Project: Over 230 volunteers from Georgian Bay and inland lake cottage associations have created almost 500 bass nests in the past two years. Assessment work conducted in 2007 suggests that approximately 20% of created nests are adopted by spawning bass. Partner associations in 2007 included: West Carling Assn., Whitestone Lake Cottage Assn., Lorimer Lake Cottage Assn., South Channel Assn. and Horseshoe Lake Cottage Association.



Photo courtesy of Andy Metelka

4. Moon River Walleye Rehabilitation Plan: In close partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources the EGBSC formulated the above plan. Key rehabilitation actions: 1. Modified spring-time flow regime to optimize walleye spawning success; 2. Significant enhancement to walleye spawning habitat; 3. Rehabilitative plantings; 4. Review of harvest controls; 5. Increased enforcement; 6. First Nation consultation; 7. Monitoring and assessment.



4a. Moon River Spawning Bed Enhancement Project: This project is the centrepiece of the above Walleye Rehabilitation Plan. The project is well advanced in the planning stages and meeting Environmental Assessment requirements. The project proposes enhancing up to 5000 square metres of spawning habitat. It is intended that construction will be completed in the summer of 2008. Key partners to date include: Ontario Power Generation, Georgian Bay Land Trust, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Habitat Options



5. Tadenac Lake Outlet Walleye Spawning Bed Project: Approximately 75 square metres of high quality walleye spawning habitat was created at the Tadenac Lake outlet. Future plantings of walleye are planned to 'seed' the site. The project was conducted in partnership with the Tadenac Fishing Club and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA funding).



6. Fish Population Monitoring and Assessment Program: The EGBSC conducted three fisheries assessment surveys in 2007: 1. Moon River walleye spawning index survey; 2. Harris Lake & South Magnetawan River walleye spawning index survey and the Bayfield-Nares Near-Shore Community Index Netting (NSCIN) survey. Walleye egg collection, culture and rehabilitative plantings were part of the first two surveys. Approximately 2 million walleye fry were planted.



Gravid Moon River Spawner



Mike Penrod & Nares Inlet pike

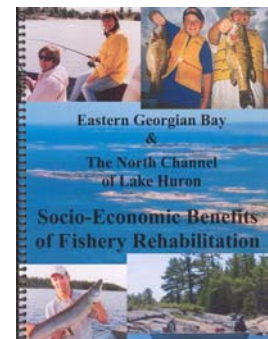


Sturgeon caught in Moon R. survey

7. Custodial Co-Management of Crown Land Campsites: This project to mitigate the deleterious environmental and social impacts of crown land camping was expanded in 2007. Fourteen partners (cottage associations, municipalities, environmental interest groups, GBBR and government agencies) participated in custodial activities that included signage, bush latrine installation and behind-the-scenes campsite cleanup.



8. Valuing the Sport Fishery of Eastern Georgian Bay and the North Channel: The EGBSC in partnership with the Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council and the Township of The Archipelago have embarked on an ambitious socio-economic study to recognize the monetary value of direct and indirect benefits related to fishery rehabilitation along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay and the North Channel. Production of the scoping report comprised the first phase of the project. Phase 2 will entail the production of the socio-economic study.

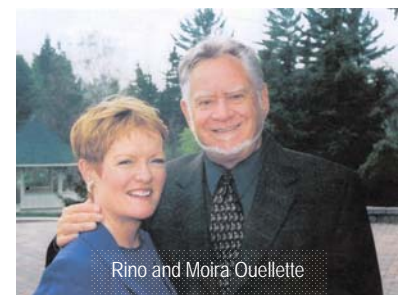


9. Support for Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) Projects: The EGBSC not only seeks partners to assist with our projects, we also assist partner with projects in which they take the lead. The GBBR have two excellent projects for which we and a variety of other partners (Parry-Sound Muskoka Stewardship Council, Georgian Bay Islands National Park, OMNR Parry Sound District and Ontario Parks) are providing support:

- a. Species At Risk Outreach and Education Project, and
- b. Lake Huron Framework for Community Action – Pilot Project.



10. Rino Ouellette Memorial Scholarship Award: Rino Ouellette, one of the founding members of the EGBSC passed away in 2006. Rino embodied the best qualities of humanity, friendship and stewardship. In Rino's memory, the EGBSC will set up a \$500 annual scholarship fund to be awarded to a local Parry Sound high school student who demonstrates a passion and dedication consistent with the *Ontario Stewardship Ethic*.



Note: Summary reports for the above projects as well as a comprehensive 2007 Annual Report are available on our website at www.helpourfisheries.com.