



Media Update: 2009-01

Go Home Bay Chutes Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancement Project

After more than 2 years of planning, the Go Home Bay Chutes walleye spawning bed enhancement project was conducted from October 12 to 16, 2009 by the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council and various partners. The site is located in Georgian Bay Township where the Go Home River spills into eastern Georgian Bay. The project comprised the importation and placement of 60 cubic meters of spawning rubble and repositioning of large boulders at the site.



Enhanced Go Home Bay Chutes
walleye spawning site – Oct. 16/09

Eric McIntyre, project coordinator for the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council said: "We're delighted with the finished spawning bed and hopefully the walleye will agree. Although construction is complete, the job of reintroducing walleye into Go Home Bay is only half done. What we need to do next is to stock walleye to create the nucleus of a spawning population."

The site was once reputed to have a small walleye spawning population, but assessment work conducted this past spring concluded walleye no longer spawn at the site. McIntyre said: "This essentially changed the project from one of rehabilitation to reintroduction. Introductory walleye plantings are now planned at the site for a three to four year period commencing in 2010. It is intended these plantings will form the basis of a spawning stock and eventually a natural, self-sustaining walleye population.

Mr. McIntyre further commented: "This project is a great example of real, tangible benefits to the fishery resource from a network of partners all pulling together to make it happen." Supporters of the project included: the OMNR (Parry Sound and Lake Huron Offices), Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Great Lakes Conservancy, the Go Home Bay Cottagers Association and member associations of the Georgian Bay Association – Wah Wah Taysee and Madawaska Club at Go Home Bay. The project was coordinated by the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council – a member of the OMNR's Ontario Stewardship network.

The project was primarily funded by the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA), a federal-provincial agreement to protect and restore the health of the Great Lakes. Generous donations from private donors provided additional funding for the project.

Project construction was by Schlager Inc., a local barging, construction and landscaping company from Seguin Township.

Further information about this and other projects the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council is working on can be found at www.helpourfisheries.com.