



Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

www.helpourfisheries.com

Media Update – 2011-01

(Fun In The Sun article)

The Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC) is one of over 45 Councils throughout the Province under the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Ontario Stewardship Program. The Council is generously supported by the MNR but Council projects are independently chosen by Council members, their constituents and partner organizations. The Council currently consists of 14 members who are volunteer community leaders including representatives from partner organizations. The Ontario Stewardship model is founded on the principle of voluntary, collaborative community efforts to enhance the health and sustainability of natural ecosystems.

Thanks to the generous efforts of its many partners and volunteers, the EGBSC is pleased to report a highly productive year for 2010 and 2011 is shaping up to be equally as good.

The stocking of over 20,000 summer fingerlings to help rehabilitate walleye populations at Go Home Bay and Moon River was a milestone achievement by the Council in 2010. These plantings are part of a broader rehabilitation strategy that includes spawning habitat enhancement and population monitoring. Much of the credit for this walleye production goes to Cedar Brook Farms – a private hatchery near Victoria Harbour that raised the summer fingerlings under contract from the EGBSC. The source of the reared walleye was from the Moon River and Port Severn populations.



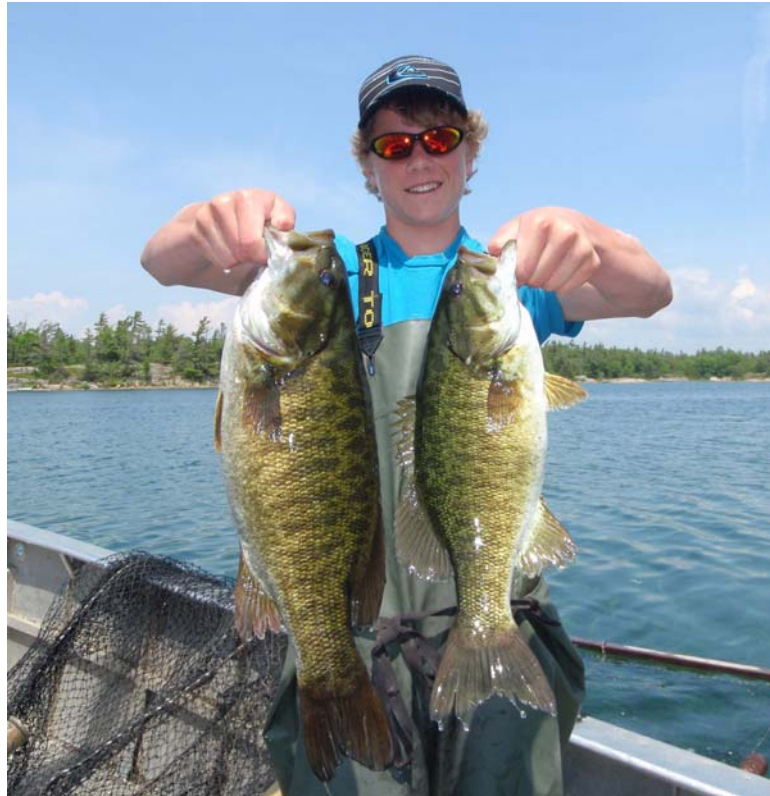
A sample of the 20,000+ walleye summer fingerlings stocked at Go Home Bay and Moon River in 2010.

The EGBSC Ranger Crew enjoyed another fruitful summer of partnership work in 2010 including: the Rose Point Trail clean-up; assisting with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve chimney swift survey; assisting the McKellar Conservation Association with spawning habitat enhancement; Crown land custodial work; constructing rattlesnake fences at Killbear Park; Kapikog trail maintenance; Parry Sound Anglers and Hunters safety fence construction; Aspen Valley Wildlife Centre maintenance and habitat work; and assisting the Georgian Bay Land Trust with clean-up of their Sandy Island property. Funding for this crew is provided under the Ministry of Natural Resources' Youth Initiatives and Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program.



2010 Stewardship Ranger crew engaged in campsite clean-up activities in the Lower Moon River Conservation Reserve.

The EGBSC also conducted a near-shore fish community survey in the Wah-Wah-Tasysee area of Eastern Georgian Bay – south of 12-Mile Bay. Almost 2000 fish weighing half a ton and comprising 12 species were caught in live-capture trap nets; enumerated, size-sampled and subsequently released. The smallmouth bass population looked excellent! The catch rate (number of smallmouth per net night) was more than twice the Georgian Bay average and the high number of juvenile bass bodes well for fishermen in the future.



Parry Sound High School student and volunteer – Adam Logan, with a couple of nice ‘smallies’ captured in the Wah-Wah-Taysee fish community survey.

Other projects the Council worked on in 2010 included: their annual lake stewardship workshop; partnerships for custodial work on Crown lands; site evaluation at the Musquash River for future spawning bed enhancement work; monitoring thiamine levels in Big Sound lake trout eggs; FMZ-14 fishing regulations sticker; trumpeter swan monitoring; Moon River water management discussions and assisting with partner projects.

EGBSC Chairperson Terry Crawford said: “In 2010 we had a great year working hand-in-hand with partners such as the GBBR (Georgian Bay Biosphere), GBA (Georgian Bay Association), Georgian Bay Forever, the GBLT (Geo. Bay Land Trust) and a host of other dedicated groups and individuals. Together, we are making a real difference. We are looking forward to doing the same in 2011.”

Additional information about the EGBSC and the various projects they are working on is available on their website at www.helpourfisheries.com.

***“Tell me and I forget; show me and I remember; involve me and I understand.”
(Chinese Proverb)***