

Moon River Walleye Rehabilitation Initiative

The Moon River Walleye Rehabilitation Plan is a joint initiative between the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, OMNR Upper Great Lakes Management Unit, and the OMNR Parry Sound District Office. Other supporting partners in the project include: the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Georgian Bay Land Trust, Ontario Power Generation – Evergreen Energy, Great Lakes Conservancy, Moon River Walleye Association, Woods Bay Cottage Association and the Sans Souci – Copperhead Association.

The Moon River once had a reputation as a trophy walleye fishery amongst anglers in the Province of Ontario. Unfortunately, that reputation has been diminished by the collapse of the walleye stock over several decades.



After more than three years in the planning stages, the Moon River walleye spawning bed enhancement project began construction on September 24, 2008 and concluded on October 31st.

The project was awarded to WS Morgan Construction Co. of Parry Sound. Partners in the project included Rieger Construction and Red Rock Barging.

Over 1100 metric tons of rock was imported for the enhancement project. Enhancement work on the south shore comprised the installation of multiple boulder clusters top-dressed with granite cobble – providing optional substrate for walleye spawning and incubation processes. Enhancement work on the

north shore comprised the construction of one boulder cluster and the deposition of over 500 metric tonnes of granite cobble.

The spawning beds have been designed to be functional throughout the wide range of projected flows down the Moon River during the walleye spawning and incubation period, in accordance with the Muskoka River Water Management Plan*

* The Moon River is part of the Muskoka River watershed and a component of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

This project is the centre-piece of the Moon River Walleye Rehabilitation Plan (EGBSC-OMNR, 2007) and we are extremely optimistic it will have a marked beneficial impact on this population. Future assessment work is planned to evaluate the success of this project and to continue monitoring of this provincially significant fish population in accordance with the Rehabilitation Plan.

For more information on this project please visit the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council website at <http://www.helpourfisheries.com>

