

## **History of BPSA Rainbow Trout Project.**

Since 1968, in April of each year the BPSA has collected rainbow trout eggs from wild stocks on Colpoy's and Gleason streams. We have hatched, reared and stocked over 2.5 million fish since the project began.

The project began with the Warton Provincial Fish Hatchery under the supervision of manager, Arnold Draves, hatching the eggs. The fry were then placed in a spring fed pond constructed by the BPSA at the Warton Golf Course. This system was abandoned after a few years. Two concrete raceways were constructed on our property. Some fish were reared but problems were encountered due to lack of water and low levels of O<sup>2</sup> and the problems encountered with managing the operation without cover from the weather. Volunteers then constructed upwelling incubation boxes and placed them on Colpoy and Gleason creeks hatching and releasing fry. This system operated for several years with limited success due to uncontrolled conditions and vandalism. The BPSA then embarked on a project to build over the existing concrete tanks and tapped into 3 more springs on the property and hydro was installed and with the aid of aerators our ability to raise more fish increased. Fry were taken from the upwelling incubation boxes in the streams and reared to yearlings in the concrete tanks.

The BPSA then decided to abandon the upwelling incubation boxes and installed an upwelling incubator to hatch eggs at our facility. The pole shed was doubled in size and a 30-foot fiberglass raceway was installed. Three more incubators were installed giving us the ability to hatch approximately 200,000 eggs. The minnow saved aerators were replaced with a blower system and a standby back up oxygen system. This allowed us to raise more healthy fish with the amount of water available, now being the limiting factor usually during the months of August and September. In 1999 the BPSA drilled two wells in hopes of obtaining more water. However, the wells produced a limited increase in supply of water, as a result. Our operation has now reached its maximum production capacity.

In 2002, the BPSA raised \$65,000 and with the help of volunteers built a new hatchery entirely with volunteer labour. This new facility provides more rearing area, viewing, and working room and storage space.

The project now operates under permit from the MNR and CFIP grants of \$2,000; received annually to help with operating costs.

Today, our rainbow trout project begins in April with the collection of up to 200,000 eggs. After hatching, they swim up to the fry stage and some are stocked to the upper section of Colpoys and Gleason brooks in areas of no natural reproduction. Stocks in the hatchery are reduced to about 85,000 to be held until fall. Fingerlings are then stocked to streams reducing the hatchery stock to 30,000 fish which are fin clipped and graded to get maximum growth. Yearlings are stocked in the spring into Colpoys and Gleason streams.

The success of the project is proven every spring when during the egg collection fish are examined for fin clips. The number of fin clipped fish ranges from 40 – 60 %. The good rainbow trout fishing in Colpoy's Bay is due to this project and the many BPSA volunteers who have spent many hours collecting eggs, feeding fish, fin clipping and stocking.

Submitted by Ray Marklevitz  
Fish Com Chair/Hatcher Manger.