

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Stocking coho — 1969

This picture was taken on April 2, 1969, by Donald D. Cook, columnist for The Journal-Register. It shows the very first stocking of coho salmon into Oak Orchard River. More than 100 interested spectators were reported as being on hand to watch this historic event, which took place just east of the Route 279 bridge over Lake Alice at Waterport.

Shown here on the left is Edward D. "Ned" Holmes of the Region 8 DEC out of Avon. At the time, he was acting Region One fisheries manager. On the right, helping with the activity, is Kenneth Rush of Waterport.

At the time, around 20,000 of the 5½ inch-long yearling coho were stocked. It was reported then that some of the males would grow to be 18 to 20 inches long by the fall of 1969, and 24 to 32 inches long by the fall of 1970, and would weigh from eight to 12 pounds.

Introducing the salmon into Lake Ontario was designed to control more objectional fish and provide a great new sporting fish for anglers. Oak Orchard River was chosen as the site for stocking in this region because of Oak Orchard Harbor and the anticipated improvements by state and federal authorities, which of course have since taken place.

As a result of this activity over the past 30 years, Orleans County has become recognized as a destination point for fishermen. Many businesses relating to the



tourism industry have made an economical impact to our area because of fishing. Nine million dollars are generated annually because of this sport

fishing activity. The DEC, through its stocking program, continues to release 3 million salmon yearly into Lake Ontario.