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ON THE MAIN STREET

with FORD MOYNES



A novice possibly has no right to offer advice to fishermen — where to go for the best fishing, what to take and how to use the fishing “implements of war”. However after hearing many groans and grumbles the following is offered for what it is worth.

Fishing is not good in the local Kawartha lakes. True some of the catches that have been made are good, but some American visitors are not happy with their luck.

A few days ago Dr. Wells of Buffalo, N.Y., was a guest at a local service club luncheon. He said, “It is time the Kawartha’s were restocked and it is time the Ontario Game and Fish Department revised the Act. When the fishing season used to open at the end of July or around July 1st, Americans flocked in and spent weeks in the neighbourhood. They shipped many frozen fish back to the U.S. Since the season was set ahead to May, the U.S. tourists have not been catching nearly as many fish”.

Dr. Wells continued “I am told that when the season opens in May, the streets of Bobcaygeon and the banks of the river and lake are crowded with fishermen. No doubt they take out hundreds of fish, and consequently there are not many left for the Americans who get their holidays in July and August, and I think that is a popular period for holidays”.

The doctor said some resort owners may have good patronage in May for the fishing opening, but he asked how many lodges are filled in July and August.

A Lindsay lover of the pastime of fishing had this to say:

“I remember well the days when almost every diligent fisherman caught his share of lunge. It was not unusual to haul in dozens of fish in the season and the average fisherman did not bother with small length fish. He tossed them back into the water and waited for the big fellows to nibble and bite. There was good fishing for muskie as long as there was that fish sanctuary in McLaren’s Creek.”

“We want tourists, and we want fish,” he continued, “Perhaps we should return to July 1st as the opening date and see what happens. I am sure our American visitors would be happy”.

Dr. Wells has one interesting fish story. His wife and son were fishing and his wife was enjoying just sitting in the boat waiting for a bite, it came and the excited lady handed the line to the doctor who managed to plunk the piscatorial beauty into the boat. There was no headache stick and Mr. Fish was jumping all over the boat. The young man grabbed an oar and tried to subdue the fish. He did but at the very last lunge the end of the oar went clean through the bottom of the boat. However, the muskie was safely taken to shore.

Percy Skitch of Thurstonia Park, an ardent fisherman told a better one — a real tall tale.

“I was working near the resort when I hooked on to a big fish”, said Percy, “It must have been big, that I instinctively was aware of, for it hauled me and the boat right across the lake to the Sturgeon Point side. I managed to manoeuvre a bit and the first thing I knew, that blessed fish headed back to Thurston-

ia and all I had to do was keep a tight line on the critter. Finally when it was completely exhausted, I waded ashore, keeping a tight line, and managed to haul it up shore. That was some experience, that was some ride” concluded.

It might be added — was some tall tale!