

- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- EAVESTROUGHING

Don Houston

Phone 547W

With Rod and Gun

Once again the Canadian Sportsmen's show was a success. There were so many exhibits, features and attractions that it was almost impossible to see them and the big stage and water revue in the same day. It was Sharkey the Seal's last visit to Toronto for some time. Sharkey is more than a trained seal. He's a most versatile performer, actor, mimic, acrobat, juggler, and musician... who would gladly do fifty performances a day if he were so permitted. Sharkey is 15 years old.

In 1938 he was purchased sight unseen by Mark Huling who operates a "seal college" at Kingston, New York. When Sharkey arrived at the college to take a postgraduate course in entertainment he was such an insignificant little runt that Huling debated whether or not to send him back to Catalina Island. Today Sharkey has the reputation of being the best seal in the show business.

Smelt Run

After the Sportsmen's show the smelt start running, later on in April it's the perch run then most important of all, the trout season. We can forget about the latter two for the time being and see what we can dig up about these silvery little fish called smelts.

They should be running soon if not right now. The smelt spawn early in the Spring, running up the streams as soon as the ice has gone out and before it has left the lakes. One female of about nine inches will deposit 20,000 eggs, with the eggs being placed on the clean gravel bottom of streams and sometime of lakes. The eggs hatch in from twenty to twenty-seven days. At one year old, the average smelt is three to four inches in length; at two, six to eight inches, three, eight to nine; four, nine to ten; five, ten to twelve and at six years of age measures between twelve and fourteen inches.

The fish were first planted in Lake Michigan, according to early records, as a possible food for lake trout. They increased tremendously in number and then, some years ago, were stricken by a disease which almost wiped them out. They have been reported in large numbers in more recent times and have spread from northern Lake Huron into Lake Ontario and even some parts of the St. Lawrence river.

One of the most popular legends about their tremendous numbers came from Northern Michigan where it is claimed, a farmer first discovered them in a creek so thickly populated that he could actually hear them swimming.

In some Ontario streams they can be dipped out by the bucketful, particularly late at night when the run is in full swing. Try some this spring. You'll find them quite a delicacy. A small mesh dip net with a long handle is a good thing to scoop them out with. Better take a bushel basket or a small washtub to put them in, tho'.

What's A Crappie

That's a question we were asked recently. Here is some information

we have on them. There are two kinds apparently the white and the black.

White Crappie

Names: Sac-a-lait, Crappie, White Bass, Strawberry Perch, Papermouth, Suckley Perch, Tinmouth, Chinquapin Perch, Bachelor, Newlight, Campbellite, Lamplighter and many other very localized names. Distribution: Great Lakes and Ontario to the Gulfcoast. Widely planted. Distinguishing characteristics: Five to seven dorsal spines (usually 6) outline of back a more S-shaped curve than that of the Black Crappie, with which it is often confused. Size: One to two pounds. Said to reach 3 lbs. Food: insects, crustaceans and fishes. Habits: Sluggish ponds or bayous. Warmish water.

Black Crappie

Names: Calico Bass, strawberry bass, grass bass, crappie, papermouth, tinmouth. Distribution: Southern Canada; Great Lakes to New Jersey and south to Texas. Has been introduced widely elsewhere, including the Pacific Coast. Color: usually darker than the White Crappie and the markings usually more numerous and irregular. Distinguishing characters: six to ten spines in the dorsal fin (usually 7 or 8). Size: often up to two pounds and reaches four. Food: fish, crustaceans.

Habits: lakes and large streams, rare in larger lakes.

Hunting Licence

A ground hog licence can be purchased from any official of the Dept. of Lands and Forests. The fee is \$1.00.

Night Crawlers

Just before the last snow fall the night crawlers were up by the hundreds on the lawns.

The groundhogs were out on Good Friday. This is a good sign that spring is not far away.

During the past hunting season many hunting dogs were killed by trains, cars, and various other ways. In memory of these dogs we print the following poem:

"Ol' Pete"

O his stance was true,
And he looked at you,
When mallards went winging by,
And out of the blind,
Came an anxious whine,
As if asking the reason why.

But I killed my fire,
Cause it tickled his ire,
By and by, I'd take my shot
And the gunwale's rim,
He'd clear so trim,
Like a nickel clicking the slot.

For true to his breed,
Through rice and weed,
He'd hunt the livelong day
To his ears in muck,
For a wounded duck,
Ol' Pete was built that way.

And many's the time,
In September's clime,
On Calabogie's shore we've stood,
For we'd had our fun,
Now we watched the sun,
Shaft skyward Mount Patrick's hood.
But there came a day,
When we took him away,
On a journey of heartbreak and pain,
I can see his eyes yet,
And I'll never forget,
Coming home with that collar and chain.

Now he romps now more,
On the old lakeshore,
Where the rice stands six feet high,
And tho' he's stiff and stark,
I hear a phantom bark
When Mallards go winging by.
—George Hoare

FARM NEWS

Garnet Norrish is Top Junior Seed Fair Judge

Twenty nine Junior Farmers from all sections of Halton competed in the Junior Farmer Seed Judging Competition at the annual Halton Seed Fair and Bacon Show. The young men judged classes of oats, wheat, barley, alfalfa, potatoes, hog carcasses and identified mounted weeds and forage plants.

Garnet Norrish, of Moffat, was the high man of the day and was also awarded the Halton Cream and Butter Trophy for the high score in the Judging of hog carcasses and potatoes. The Halton Seed Growers' Trophy emblematic of the championship in judging grain was won by Howson Ruddell, of Ashgrove, while Fraser McNabb, of Esquesing Township won the Strathcona Orchards Trophy for the score in Judging small seeds, etc. Other awards were as follows:

Grain:
Seniors: Gordon Darby, Rockwood; Irvine Thompson, Hornby; George C. Wilson, Georgetown.

Intermediates: John W. Pickett, Hornby; John C. Willmott, Milton; Frank Wilson, Georgetown.

Juniors — Harold Lawrence, Harold Brain.

Small Seeds Section:
Seniors: Fraser McNabb, Georgetown; Mac Sprawl, Acton; Richard Course, Hornby.

Intermediates: Don Milton, Georgetown; John Currie, Georgetown; Earl Wilson, Norval.

Juniors — Gordon Bird, Georgetown; Don Johnson, Milton.

Hog Carcasses & Potato Section:
Seniors: Garnet Norrish, Moffat; Wm. Brain, Norval; Fyfe Somerville, Acton.

Intermediates: Howson Ruddell, Georgetown; Colin Marshall, Milton; Herb LaPier and George Rogister, Milton.

Juniors: Bob Broughton, Bronte; Cliff Norrish, Moffat.

MAJOR BOWLERS

Anderson Climbs Again Leads Bowling Loop

Bowling team scores of 1280 and 3489 for the week's high, Bill Anderson's team whitewashed Ace Bailey 7-0 in last week's play at the Lucky Strike. Anderson's team is now well in the lead with 95 points and Bailey has third place with 74. All Kirby's team nearly made the grade but only received 5 points to Duke Wilson's 2. Kirby's team is in second spot with 83 and Wilson still trails with 58.

Harvey Chappel is in the spotlight this week with a nice 334 single. In second and third places were Tom Wylie 318 and Alf Kirby 302. This is a good place to mention Ross Norton's 104. Bill Anderson rolled high triple of 761 (296-206-285). Other good triples: Alf Kirby's 754 (289-302-183) and Joe Hall's 701. (287-205-229).

Of sixty games bowled 36 were over 200. There are six games left and there is still a good chance that the top team can be overtaken if the other teams settle down and really start to bowl.

— Ace Bailey

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FARM NEWS

V. B. Bradley, Hornby Bacon Show Champ

The seventh annual Bacon Show was held in conjunction with the Halton Seed Fair on March 17th in the Milton Town Hall. The township directors of the Halton Hog Producers who selected the entries from their respective townships two weeks prior to the show, did such an excellent job that it was with some difficulty that W. S. McMullen and his staff of the Federal Live Stock Branch made their awards.

Seventeen of the twenty hogs entered and on display were Grade "A". However, all Grade A hogs do not make top or first quality sides. The Grand Champion side came from a hog bred, fed, and marketed by V. B. Bradley, of Milton, with the Reserve going to Roy Ellenton, of Lowville. Others with first quality entries were Percy Merry, Hornby; W. R. Royle, Oakville; Rayner Bros., Milton; Glen Campbell, Milton; J. W. Carney, Georgetown and W. H. Reid & Son, of Georgetown. Trafalgar Township won the inter-township award, with Nelson Township in second place.

Harold Nanna of the Federal Live Stock Branch, in discussing the bacon display, congratulated Halton producers on being the second high County from the standpoint of Grade A's in 1951 with 42.3 per cent.

Others who spoke briefly were Stanley L. Hall, MPP, Cedric Harrop, and Percy Merry, the latter two being the Secretary and President of the Halton Hog Producers. C. F. Pickett, president of the Halton Crop Improvement Association was the chairman for the excellent after-noon's programme.

visiting around

We like to go visiting to see how other people produce textiles. A good many come to visit us, and we like this too. All main countries have textile industries, and people come from other countries in the western group to study our methods. The textile industry here in Canada is among the leaders in technical skill and effectiveness. And along with the U.S. it pays the highest wages for textile employment anywhere. In Canada the industry is the largest employer of manufacturing labor. Textiles also pay the largest manufacturing wage bill in this country. In these times, the size and technical ability of the industry are important features of Canada's strength.

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