

Hunters Had Best Season In Provincial Records

The opening of the duck season on Luther Marsh saw the most intensive hunting pressure in the history of this province, according to personal observations by Dr. C. H. D. Clarke, assistant chief of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.

"The opening barrage was the most prolonged I have ever heard—zero hour on Pelee Island has never touched it," Dr. Clarke commented.

"I saw the opening at the Luther Marsh and received reports on the Humber Marsh. Both were well patrolled with complete success in enforcement and widespread appreciation on the part of the public when good shooting is provided through good management.

"The opening barrage at Luther Marsh lasted for almost three-quarters of an hour—have never heard anything like it on Pelee Island or anywhere else. Undoubtedly it represents the peak of mass participation in recreational use of fish and wildlife in this province."

T. M. Nichol, Lake Huron district conservation officer, reports that an estimated 1,970 hunters were in the Marsh by 3 p.m. on opening day. The over all bag averaged 11 ducks per hunter as compared with 1.6 last year.

Game
The bags of 1,564 hunters were checked in the evening and many species of waterfowl were identified. As usual, mallards, blacks and blue-wing teal made up 70 per cent of the total kill. Five Canada geese and several beautiful specimens of the colourful wood duck were taken off the marsh. Thirty-four Lands and Forests personnel were on duty and cars were stopped at all access points into the marsh for a final reminder of the regulations and a licence check.

"The hunt proceeded in a very orderly way and the department much appreciates the cooperation received from the public," officials said.

Cars in the marsh at 2 p.m. numbered 608 carrying an estimated 1,970 hunters. Based on the 1,564 hunters checked out, officials reported 1,723 ducks shot as well as 204 coots and five geese. Average time required—40 shoot one duck—4.0 hunter hours.

The hunting season in Ontario annually sends skyrocketing the number of convictions for one of the most dangerous game law violations—carrying loaded firearms in motor cars and power boats. Two years ago, for example, convictions for this type of offence jumped from 37 in September to 90 in October.

Small Fraction
Comparative figures are not available yet for this fall, of course, but conservation officers of Lands and Forests believe that the number actually caught and convicted represent only a fraction of the number of careless hunters who transport loaded firearms in such a manner as to be a menace to themselves and the rest of the travelling public.

In the interests of hunter and public safety and a truly sportsmanlike attitude toward the welfare of others, Ontario Lands and Forests Minister the Honorable J. W. Spooner has appealed to all who handle firearms to give the fullest obedience to the regulations designed only for the common good.

Education and fuller understanding of the reasons behind fish and game regulations were imperative for their successful application, the Minister believed. Seasons, size limits, bag limits and all regulations concerning fish and game were designed to perpetuate the species so that it would always be possible for hunters and anglers to enjoy these sports.

"We are constantly re-adjusting our thinking about seasons and bag and creel limits, generally only in the light of new knowledge gained through research. Enforcement of regulations is therefore essential to good fish and game management.

"We believe that an informed and understanding public will support regulations as to seasons, safe practices and other management requirements if they give them a moment's thought and recognize how important they are and how widespread are their effects. It is for this reason that the department is carrying out educational programs, including the Hunter Safety Training Programme, directed particularly at the younger age classes, in the hope that a steady decline in law violations will result."

In the province's program of natural resource conservation, the minister felt that preservation of human life must be paramount.

Meat Handling
Thousands of Ontario hunters obtain deer or moose each fall, and this year will be no exception. In some areas, according to reports received by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, moose hunting has been better this year than it has been for some years past. The same story goes for deer. While it had been feared that last winter's severe weather would greatly cut into the deer herds, that has not been the case, generally.

But much game is lost through spoilage, just as much of which are failure to dress the animal immediately or to get it home in good condition. Many people tie the carcass to the front fender of a car. Department experts advise against this, pointing out the heat of the engine may injure the meat. Much better, they say, is a car top carrier.

Actually, handling of the carcass is relatively simple. It is not necessary to cut the throat of the animal. In most cases, the bullet wound causes internal bleeding which pumps all the blood out of the arteries or, as the internal organs are removed, the blood flows out.

"In removing the internal organs be careful not to puncture the intestines. Remove all organs and leave a passage for air through the incision," the experts say. "Wipe out the cavity thoroughly. Water will not harm the meat as long as the carcass is thoroughly dried after washing."

"If you will not be getting out of the woods immediately, dry the cavity every day or two. Hang the deer up by the head and use a stick to keep the stomach cavity open. This will allow the air to circulate and remove the body heat as soon as possible.

"If it is not possible to hang the deer, build a crib of sticks to allow air circulation all about the carcass. Do not leave it on the ground as the leaves and litter will act as insulation. If the temperature is over 40 degrees, you should attempt to get the deer refrigerated at once. If available, a locker plant generally provides good freezing facilities as well as meat processing experience."

Add 30 percent to the dressed weight of the deer to a deer which dresses out at 200 pounds weighed around 280 pounds in the bush. For ease in handling, it's advisable to carry a length of light, strong rope while hunting. Also on the market nowadays is a light block and tackle which fits into a hunting coat pocket and will "lift" nearly 1,000 pounds.

Roasts of venison should be hung for some time before cooking. A little sour wine or vinegar rubbed into the flesh is advised. Sear the roast to keep in the juices and then cook slowly.

Stewed venison is tops on any hunting camp menu. A couple of tablespoons of vinegar placed in the pot helps keep down the "wild" odour.

Recipe
A favourite recipe. Enough meat is cut into spears about three inches square by 1 1/2 inches thick. An iron frying pan is heated and a heaping teaspoon of sugar allowed to melt but not burn. Two tablespoons of butter are added, or some of the animal fat may be used. When it is smoking, add the meat and turn until it is well browned. Remove to the stewing pot and cover with lukewarm or cold water. Peel and slice thin four onions, five potatoes, six carrots. Add three with a cup of chopped celery, leaves and all, to the stew. Let all simmer gently for three hours or more with the pan well covered.

If necessary add water from time to time. When it has cooked for two hours add two cupsful of shredded cabbage leaves, two teaspoons salt, one of pepper and one of paprika as well as a teaspoon of mixed pickling spices. Stir in half cup of rolled oats or rolled wheat flakes. This should thicken it enough so that no flour is needed. Actually, the stew tastes even better when it has been reheated on a second or third day.

BIG NAME IN NEW LOOP - By Alan Mavor



SAMMY BAUGH
MAYOR OF THE NEW YORK YIYANS, WHO MUST RATE AS THE BIGGEST FOOTBALL NAME IN THE NEW AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

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ASHGROVE ANNUAL MEETING

The WMS meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon, January 12th, at the home of Mrs. Thos. Giffen, Maple Ave., Georgetown. The president opened with a short New Year message and the hymn "Standing at the Portal" and prayer. Secretary Mrs. Cecil Wilson read the minutes of the December meeting and called the roll which was answered by a Bible verse, "Faith." Mrs. W. Ford had the Devotional assisted by Mrs. Frank Wilson. The installation of the new officers was conducted by Mrs. J. Hill after which Mrs. Vern Pickett gave the study chapter describing the heart and home of African life. After the closing prayer a social hour was enjoyed.

The annual meeting of the Ashgrove United Church was held in the basement on Thursday evening, January 14th with Rev. John Hill opening with a hymn and prayer. James Carney was appointed secretary and read the minutes of last year's annual meeting. Lloyd Sweeney read the treasurer's report after which Charles Austin thanked everyone for their financial help and cooperation this past year as a lot of improvements and expense had occurred in the church. Mr. Hill reported 106 members, two marriages and one baptism. Mrs. Lloyd Sweeney reported for the S.S. Mrs. Thos. Giffen gave Flower report. Mrs. Murray Bridgen, the Mission Hand report and the Centennial report by Mr. C. B. Dick. Votes of thanks were given Mr. Hill and his family for their splendid work among us and the teachers of the Sunday School and the choir and leader for their efforts in song every Sunday after which sand

wishes and coffee were served by the ladies of the W.A. The Young People held their first meeting for 1960 on Sunday evening at the home of Alan Brownbridge. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Murray Bridgen in the death of her father Mr. Pierce of the Hutton Manor. Well! How did you all like the black out from Hydro and no phone service last week? Those who have cook stoves and coal furnaces were very fortunate. It makes us realize how important Hydro is when we depend on electricity for so many things. Here's hoping no more freezing rains come our way.

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Church Ladies Compile Cook Book for Sale

A cook book compiled by the members of St. Andrew's Women's Federation has been released for sale. It was announced last Wednesday night at a meeting of the Federation in St. Andrew's United Church. The book which contains a variety of favourite recipes submitted by the members can be secured by contacting Mrs. Gordon Veitch or Mrs. Kelvin Brown.

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