

Outdoors



with George Hoare

Two records were broken in the 1982 "Molson" Big Fish contest. Ted Triebner, of Grand Bend, set a new Ontario Provincial record in the coho salmon class. His entry weighed 24 pounds, Goderich Harbour, provided it and it went for a Canadian Wiggler.

Close behind were second and third place lunkers that weighed 23 pounds 4 oz. and 23 pound 2 oz. Waterloo, Ont. and Comber, Ont. anglers.

Ed Morrison of Orangeville was in fourth place with a 19 pound, 4 ounce prize. Lucky Harris of Mississauga lived up to his name with two coho entered. One weighed 18 pounds 13 ounces and that one rated number five spot. Lucky Harris has a 16 pound 10 ounce prize that places in number ten spot.

Lucky Harris is well known to many Georgetown people. He's a determined angler with a lot of experience in the angling field.

All 15 entries in the Coho class were entered by Ontario anglers.

Lake Trout

Lake Temagami was good to Bill Hunter of Brooklyn, Ont., when it gave up a 34 lb 7 oz lake trout that is in top spot.

Dave Baragar of Lake St. Peter, Ont., is keeping Lake Opinong's reputation alive with a 32 lb 12 oz. lunker that's lodged in second place.

Lake Simcoe

Lake Simcoe is showing everyone that it can still produce lunkers. H. LeDuc of Pefferlaw angled a 27 lbs. 4 oz. lake trout from those waters just to help the lake prove it's worth.

Now it's Scramble. So Enjoy the Outdoors. Safe Journey and Tight Lines.



George Hoare was eight miles out on Lake Simcoe in "The Good Old Days".

Report from Queen's Park



by Julian Reed
M.P.P. (Halton-Burlington)

Ontario Hydro continues to be very much in the news. In the last week of 1982 it became apparent that a mistake by a supplier to the Corporation would cost Hydro consumers about \$850 million. It appears that a shortcut by boiler manufacturers Babcock and Wilcox Canada, designed to save \$1 million on a \$27 million contract, has resulted in added costs of \$850 million which will be paid by consumers. These costs relate to a delay of two years and the interest costs on the multi-billion dollar Pickering B project. The project was originally scheduled to cost \$1.37 billion—in 1973, but current estimates for the project are in the area of \$3.9 billion.

Of course, there's nothing new about consumers footing the bill. Electricity rates have increased some 275 per cent over the period 1971 to 1982. The 1983 rate approved by Ontario Hydro is 8.4 per cent—and this was reduced from Hydro's original request of 13.9 per cent by the Ontario Energy Board's recommendation. Hydro has forecast rate increases for 1984 and 1985 of 16.4 and 16.2 per cent respectively.

One major reason for these enormous increases is the gross over-expansion by Hydro, to the extent that we have an embarrassing and costly surplus of generating capacity.

In December, 1981, peak demand for electricity was 16,000 megawatts. Hydro prefers a reserve margin of 25 per cent—in this case the capacity to generate 20,750 megawatts. It actually has the capacity to generate about 24,743 megawatts—49 per cent more than actual peak demand. The excess capacity of about 3,993 megawatts approximates a capacity greater than all four units of Bruce "A", plus one of the four units at Pickering "A".

The oversupply situation is by no means temporary. It will last until 1999. Yet Hydro documents show that over-expansion continues, and by 1989 (the year Darlington comes on stream) the Corporation will be able to generate 58 per cent more electricity than anticipated at peak demand that year.

Obviously, Hydro is not serious about load forecasting, or notice would have been taken of the recommendation of the Select Committee on Ontario Hydro Affairs, made in 1976, that

Darlington would not be needed until the end of the century.

The truth of the matter is that Hydro is scrambling to find buyers for power because of the costly surplus Hydro's Vice President has, in fact, recently written to some dozen U.S. utilities offering to sell up to two million megawatt-hours yearly of surplus nuclear power from the mid to late 1980s, which is actually before the Darlington plant is scheduled to come on stream.

Let's not forget that American customers do not pay for the capital, operating and depreciation costs of the plants, as we do.

Moreover, let's not overlook the fact that the people of Ontario will be left with the nuclear wastes which are generated by the expansion of the province's nuclear capacity.

Of the province's current borrowing on public markets, 100 per cent—almost \$2.5 billion annually—is for Hydro. This represents virtually the province's entire credit limit, permitting the Government little flexibility in case it needs to borrow money for its own purposes. Borrowing extends to foreign as well as domestic sources. Hydro's foreign debt, at over \$5 billion, rivals that of the entire Federal Government, and the interest paid by Hydro to its foreign financiers exceeds \$500 million per year—more than the total dividends sent out of the country by all the foreign-controlled oil companies in Canada.

With respect to fuel costs, the Ontario Energy Board Counsel stated recently that Ontario Hydro is plagued with excess oil, not to mention excess coal, excess uranium and excess heavy water. The Corporation is tied into long-term uranium contracts which are costing consumers double the world price for uranium and will cost over \$100 million more per year for two million pounds of surplus uranium for each and every year from 1993 to well beyond the year 2000.

In addition, Hydro has so far paid Petrosar Ltd. some \$60 million (increasing by \$1.5 million per month) for not taking deliveries of oil which they do not need but are tied into through 15-year contracts.

Little wonder that Liberal Patrick Reid of Rainy River commented in November 1982 that "Star Wars must surely have been inspired by Ontario Hydro," that he could "think of no other Empire with the ability to 'strike back' at the public with such impunity."

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