

Ashgrove

April showers

by Mrs. John Bellhobby
This is now the month of April, we wonder what she will have in the way of weather for us. It has seemed a long cold winter, now we need some warm showers to wash the earth and start everything growing. Easter is coming.

It's such a happy season,
That it seems a perfect time,
For greeting special people,
With a wish that's made in rhyme.
Mr. and Mrs. Wally Knapp, Mrs. Clayton Wilson and Mrs. Vi Ainsworth one evening last week motored to Toronto to attend an Irish concert in Massey Hall. They had heard them last year while touring in Ireland.

Lola McNabb flew back to her position in Victoria, B.C. last Sunday night. She has been with her parents this past two weeks, for her sister Marilyn's wedding.

Several robins have been seen on lawns, but as one man told us

The first robin of Spring,
Always leaves me enchanted.
But not when it pulls worms,
Where my grass seed is planted.

Region tax goes up \$20

Regional council's commitment to producing energy by burning waste is among the factors boosting average taxes in Halton Hills by more than \$20 over last year.

Regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo cited two special levies, one for the Energy From Waste (EFW) program and the other for the conservation authorities, as major factors in this year's hike.

Adding another five per cent to tax bills this year is the discontinuation of mill rate subsidies launched by the province several years ago to help balance budget payments across the region.

Regional council quietly approved the \$64,207,000 operating budget for 1984 at its meeting last Wednesday, endorsing a seven per cent overall hike from last year.

Once provincial subsidies and grants are applied to the budget, Rinaldo explained, Halton taxpayers must account for \$23,419,000.

In Halton Hills, the basic rate hike for regional services amounts to four per cent. On top of that is added the special conservation authority levy of 2.5 per cent or about \$4, the extra burden caused by phasing out of mill rate subsidies, totalling five per cent or about \$7, and the EFW levy of two per cent or about \$3.39.

Thus, the average Halton Hills homeowner will pay \$167.47 for regional services this year, compared with \$147.25 last year.

The average assessment used here is \$5,633 in Georgetown, \$4,494 in Acton and \$4,634 in Esquesing.

Out doors

by Lorne Fletcher

Sixty boat loads of anglers all fishing in a pond of approximately four acres in size, that was the scene on Sunday at Thornbury.

It was so crowded that many boats were hauled up onto the edge of some very unsafe ice looking all the world like a bunch of stranded whalers.

There were plenty of Rainbows and Splake, as well as the odd White Fish, some weighing up to six pounds.

Most of these fish were taken on Salmon or Rainbow spawn bags, with a small amount of styrofoam added in order to create an equal buoyancy situation.

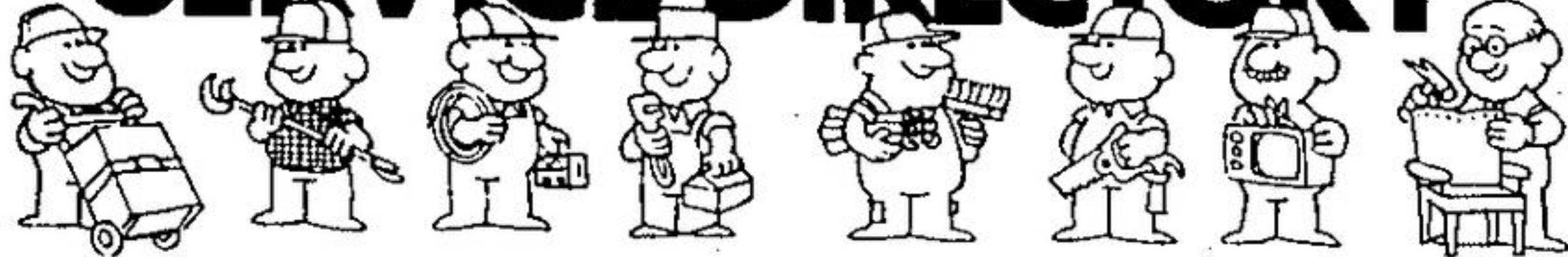
Adding enough split shot to take this bait out under the receding ice line is the way to go, finding a small amount of water current to help in this situation is pretty sure to produce hits.

Live minnows are producing large Splake again at or under the edge of the ice.

While fishing at Georgian Bay this past weekend I observed a large Rainbow leap from the water only to land on the ice. Never making it back, it finally ended up a breakfast for sea gulls. It was a sad waste of a fine fish. However, nobody could reach for the stranded fish because of the very bad ice conditions.

The ice pack is very solid in Georgian Bay, a good thing for fish that are running inshore and up all rivers and streams. This ice prohibits the commercial boats from operating, so hopefully a good run of Pickerel will make it up the Nottawasaga River. The fishery desperately needs some mature spawners, the very ones that seldom make it through the commercial nets. The Ministry of Natural Resources now have available the application forms for the 1984 moose hunt lottery. You must first buy a valid moose licence before a lottery application will be accepted. Gord Clow of Maple Rock Shootin' Range informs me that the moose hunting licence has increased \$1 in cost to \$21. This extra is probably collected to defray the costs of the lottery itself. Have a good day.

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