

ONTARIO OUTDOORS

The first sign of spring

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The Sportsmen's Show, 26th annual that is. The harbinger of spring!

You have heard by now, of the huge crowds that are flocking to the show. This in itself tells of the excitement that it generates. This year is better than the one last year and I rated that one as one of the best ever. The ministry of natural resources has changed their display and it is very impressive to say the least.

Last year I wrote about the Minsing swamp, its importance to the local environment, and the controls that the ministry is applying to it. Well you can see for yourself



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now as the ministry has a display on the swamp as well as the many other areas of interest and they are staffed with very knowledgeable personnel and are always willing to talk and answer questions.

The Toronto Star booth has a display of taxidermy and the chance to see what can be done with that trophy you will be getting this year. That's positive thinking for you. Of course the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has an excellent display. This one is well staffed and these boys will be ready to sign up you and your friends in the organization.

The Sportsmen's Show is primarily an information show, and that is what I always try to get, information. With this in mind I buy a program and sit down to study it as soon as I get in the show. I then find that I don't miss any of the booths that I wish to check, due to the fact they are all listed in the back of the program. Following are some of the manufacturers I looked up and I will follow this up with more next week.

I do not wish to promote any particular company but want only to get information out to the sportsman. I realize that not everyone can or wishes to go to the Sportsmen's Show, and I go to the show with this in mind and thus can pass on unbiased information.

Vibro-Tail, by Normark; this is the one I wrote about last year as being one of the best lures you could use when fishing for Bass or Walleye and even Pike. Normark now has a demo tank and you can see for yourself the action



An alluring attraction of this year's Sportsmen's Show

that is imparted by the tail on this lure. It is available in both Minnow shape to attach to jigs or to the spinner baits, and worm shape for various types of rigging. Look up Roger Cannon and tell him I sent you if you want more than just a look at the tank. Ask him for a look at his photo album. It will unbalance your thinking for hours just looking at the fish he has taken on these lures.

With regards to the Salmon fishing that is so much in the news these days, the method of deep water fishing for them, called down rigging is well shown this year, and this can be seen at the Big Jon booth. There you will meet Peter Stickle the well known writer who is now the rep for this company in Canada. He will be glad to tell you all about down rigging.

Diawa: Once again Diawa have done themselves proud. The display of their fabulous tackle is on display. I use Diawa rods and reels and count them among the best that I have ever used. The skirted spinning reel spools are the thing for preventing line slipping behind the drag and in to the mechanism. If you want more information on the show call me and I will try to help you all I can as this is one of the reasons for me writing this column.

I feel I would be remiss if I did not thank publicly the Knights of Columbus local council for the opportunity to address their group recently and for the fine reception.

Metric comes to Canada on the first of April of this year and it will be hard for some to understand. There is a booth at the Sportsmen's Show that will assist you in making the change but I want to let you know that I will try to do everything in metric from now on, even though I have my own thoughts on this type of measurement. It is here and we must use it. There are many benefits that will accrue to its use in Canada with world trade so important to the economy.

As promised last week, a word on spring fishing. Walleye can be taken right now, and last weekend was a perfect one with the fine weather. I feel that there should have been a lot of fish available and very few if any fishermen out. The Midland area of the Georgian Bay shoreline and the district that reaches from there to the Moon River is one of the early fishing areas due to the breakup of ice from the force of the Trent Canal pouring in to the bay there. This is one of the places to try the aforementioned Vibro Tail lures, worked very slowly on bottom, with very little, if any, jigging motion. The season there is of course open all year. The water is cold and for this reason you must fish any lure slow.

Try it and let me know, I will always be willing to go fishing with you even though most folks don't ask a writer as they think he would tell all and run it for them. Another reason is that some fishermen think a writer is just too good for them. Not so. Ask me and find out for yourself. I am always ready for a trip in Ontario Outdoors.

Three GDHS gymnastic champs

In the East Halton Gymnastics Championship, it was the GDHS gymnastics team as a whole that dominated, winning the meet. This past Thursday, in the Halton Championships, the team did not fare as well, finishing second. However, three of the GDHS gymnasts came up with superlative performances.

Lord Elgin High School of Burlington won the meet, with a total of 241.15 points. Georgetown was second, accruing 220.45 points and T.A. Blakelock High School of Oakville finished third with a total of 205.65 points.

The real story for the Georgetown team, however, was the fact that they produced three All-Round Champions.

Diane Strachen was the All-Round Champion in the Junior Division, accumulating 29 points. Kelly Frost was the Intermediate All-Round Champ with a total of 28.05 points and Roseanne Herrmann took Senior All-Round honors by picking up 27 points.

That Georgetown produced three All-Round Champions, speaks well for the coaching efforts of Joyce Finley and Sheila White. As well as Georgetown, teams from Acton, Aldershot, T.A. Blakelock, Burlington Central, Lord Elgin, Nelson, Oakville-Trafalgar, Queen Elizabeth Park, M.M. Robinson and White Oaks participated in the meet.

The next meet for GDHS is the Peel-Halton Championship this Tuesday (18th) but unlike the previous meets, individuals and not Junior, Intermediate or Senior teams, compete. To qualify, an individual had to place in the top ten in an event at the Halton Georgetown will have four Juniors, five Intermediates and five Seniors competing in the Peel-Halton. There is a team trophy available and Georgetown is in a good position to make a definite challenge.

In the Junior division, Diane Strachen placed fifth on the uneven bars, while Cathy Furlotte finished ninth. In vaulting Val Phillips placed fifth and Diane Strachen took ninth place. On the balance beam, Diane Strachen, getting into her stronger exercises, was second and Laura Yerxa placed seventh. In the floor exercise, Diane Strachen was the only GDHS Junior to qualify, and with a beautiful exercise, finished first.

In the Intermediate Division, on the uneven bars, Eva Smarda took top spot, while Kelly Frost finished sixth. GDHS placed three girls in the top ten in vaulting. Eva Smarda was second, Kelly Frost was fourth and Diane Ridley placed tenth. On the balance beam, Janet Burns and Kelly Frost finished fourth and fifth, respectively. Marianne Nemeth was the only GDHS gymnast to place in the top ten in floor exercise as she edged into tenth spot.

For the Seniors on the uneven bars, Roseanne Herrmann was second and Jane Aggias placed fifth. Ruth Aggias picked up sixth place and Roseanne Herrmann was seventh in the vaulting. Three GDHS girls gained ranking on the balance beam. Roseanne Herrman was third, Jane Aggias was fifth and Vickie Herrmann finished eighth. In the floor exercises Ruth Aggias placed fourth, Roseanne Herrman was sixth and Jane Aggias locked up ninth place.

The Peel-Halton is an important meet for the participating gymnasts. This meet is the last step to the All-Ontario's, which will be held at York University at the end of April. To gain an All-Ontario berth, the gymnasts must perform well in the Peel-Halton and show their gymnastic versatility in several events. A girl's standing in an event does not necessarily qualify or disqualify her from the All-Ontario's as the final choices are made at a coaches meeting following the championships.

The Peel-Halton were held on Tuesday, unfortunately the results were not available at press time.



DIANE STRACHEN, the All-Round Champion in the Junior division of the Peel-Halton Championships goes through her floor exercise routine. Georgetown was second to Lord Elgin for the team championship.



KELLY FROST, the All-Round Champion in the Intermediate division in the Peel-Halton Championships performs the splits on the balance beam.

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