

Letters to the Editor

# Herald columnist responds to feature on leg-hold traps

To the editor of The Herald:  
It is about time we put to rest the stupid controversy about trapping. From Vancouver, strangers are trying to affect our lives here in Halton. Even using the "testimony of a trapper" to beat us down into submission.

Down through the years, I have been known for my strong opinions and equally strong voicing of those opinions and I don't intend to stop now.

The one thing that gives me the right to this is my knowledge or investigation of the facts, something that can hardly be said for most persons commenting on current issues.

Statements by editors such as "We have made up our own mind on the issue" are too firm and unchanging. As a writer

and outdoors person, my mind is never closed to further facts and discoveries. The "gut level" approach is not going to get the facts and the evidence of a few photographs is not conclusive.

Herald staff writer Maggie Hannah is one of those who researches her material and is proficient at her trade and has earned my respect.

Last week's article by Maggie was based around the material forwarded by the Association for the Protection of Fur Bearing Animals in Vancouver and is mostly OLD: much of it is incorrect and designed to arouse people to anger and thereby financially support the employees of the association.

One or two photographs are used and repeated in various publications and pamphlets and the portion of Frank Can-

bear's so-called "Testimony of a Trapper" is only a part of a larger written piece. When I study the Bible, I do not take out just one verse or portion, but several before and after to get the true meaning.

So it should be with the Combear story. What circumstances led up to it? What was he trying to tell us? In what part of his career as a trapper was it written? Mr. Combear designed a very efficient trap as a result of his experiences. The advent of the trapping licence was a big step in 1914, at a cost of \$5, but the lines were not registered at that time. Trap lines were drawn up by Kelly Evans, the last of the Game Commissioners of Ontario, back in 1911.

However, it was Frank Butler, Game Commissioner in British Columbia, who implemented this concept in 1926. The Ministry of Natural Re-

sources firmly controls the transfer of traplines, and trappers must harvest 75 per cent of their quota or lose their right to that. A long waiting list is a surety of good trapping practices.

The registered trap line is the most successful large-scale wildlife management program in Ontario to date, and Ontario's fur resource is thriving. For those who did not read the recent column Ontario Outdoors in this paper, let me repeat, the leg-hold trap is an efficient tool in the hands of a trained trapper. When set in water, the major of cases brings death in one minute and three maximum.

When set on land, the trapped animal can be released with little more than a bruise. A trapper knows when a particular animal is "up and about" and sets and checks the time he most expects to "catch fur". In this way, the shortest possible time elapses while the animal is in the trap.

Once again, I would like to repeat a portion of a past Ontario Outdoors: "If a domestic animal is caught in a trap, then it had no right to be there in the first place".

Pet dogs cause tremendous damage to wildlife and domestic cats are ferocious killers of birds and rabbits, and often don't eat their prey. These pets are left to run by their owners and then are welcomed back to the household. If a person feels a trap is not set right or in the wrong or dangerous place, then the MNT should be called. Unless you give your name, it will be considered a crank call, and there are laws with severe penalties for anyone touching a trapset by someone else. Fur bearers need no protection from man, other than that

provided in the laws set by the Ministry, nor do any other animals that are considered game animals and hunted.

The way of the wild is the strongest shall live to breed and continue the strong strain of the species. Suffering is a part of its very makeup - its life, and moving animals from one place to another is traumatic at best. After all, an animal is not human and should not be looked upon in human terms. Laws are enacted to prevent the complete destruction of a species and these laws are worked out by those trained for the purpose and responsibility; the general public is not.

The killing of chickens and cattle, etc., is very likely more cruel than trapping and this is closely controlled and regulated by government bodies. Why not leave the trapper and the hunter alone and spend the money thus wasted on the control of oil and gasoline spills as well as chemicals on our roads and in our ditches and streams. This is something that I have been fighting with for years, as it destroys and makes irretrievable huge quantities of birds, fish and wildlife and ruins waterways. The leg-hold trap will disappear whenever it can be replaced by a device that is as efficient as the conibear and can be set on land as effectively as in the water.

Meanwhile, trappers will continue to be well-educated and best of all, concerned lovers of nature. They have known for years the thrill of the "new discovery" of winter camping. The excitement of seeing a robin in the middle of winter and telling no one. They would say they are crazy, the robins have all gone south.

Bob Oliver,

## Builder comments on Terra Cotta dispute

To the editor of The Herald:  
To the article published in last week's edition of The Herald, "Neighbors in dispute over illegal building", I would like to comment as follows:

Although the article was not intentionally biased, we feel some facts omitted in the article should be pointed out.

1. Our application submitted to the Caledon Township and NEC states clearly the new building will be a rebuilding of a wooden workshop and two wooden storage sheds with an equal combined floorspace.

2. Our wooden workshop was declared unsafe and a fire hazard.

3. After the "stop work order" was issued by Caledon Township, I returned from a contract in Alberta, visited the Township's Planning Department and explained the urgency to complete the roof. I presented the Township with a cheque of \$500 as advance payment for any fine levied against us to underline the seriousness and concern on behalf of our business. The cheque was not accepted by the Township.

4. The decision to put the roof on the building was not made to spite or buck the authorities but to prevent serious interruption of our business.

5. We also expressed our willingness to comply with any request made by the Conservation Authority, The Peel Health Department, NEC and the Caledon Township, such as closing our second driveway, by planting a cedar hedge, fencing the rear of our property, improving the exterior of the building by application of stucco finish over the concrete blocks as soon as they were requested.

6. Since approximately three months, we have attempted to meet with objectors of the building to explain the use of the building etc.

On Dec. 3, we finally got a list of objectors from NEC. We contacted all petitioners, explained the use of the building and our plans to improve the appearance of the exterior of the building, closing of the second driveway.

We also invited all petitioners to visit our building to get an impression of our type of usage.

All petitioners with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Scragg agreed to withdraw the petition if we signed an agreement with the Township to fulfill our

proposed building improvement, close the driveway and agree not to sell the building for industrial use, etc.

The objectors explained they signed the petition over concern about pollution, traffic hazards for children, storage of hazardous materials, explosives and industrialization of the neighborhood. These concerns resulted from misinformation and unfounded rumors. All people contacted condemned very strongly the vandalism used to harass us, except Mr. Scragg felt we

should not complain about illegal acts since he felt the building is illegal.

Since we have discussed the matter with the petitioners, and found most of the concerns they had were very legitimate, but were a result of false rumors, we regret that we failed to inform them of our plans before the building was started. We apologize to all neighbors and thank them for the opportunity to discuss the matter with them.

Ernie Schipprack.

### TIPPING FEES HIKED

Halton regional council has ratified a public works committee recommendation raising tipping fees at regional landfill sites from \$6.50 per ton to \$9.50 per ton, effective January 1. Council approved the recommendation last week, at which time staff was directed to prepare any future reports on proposed tipping fee increases on or before September 1 of each year.

### Hillock Catering

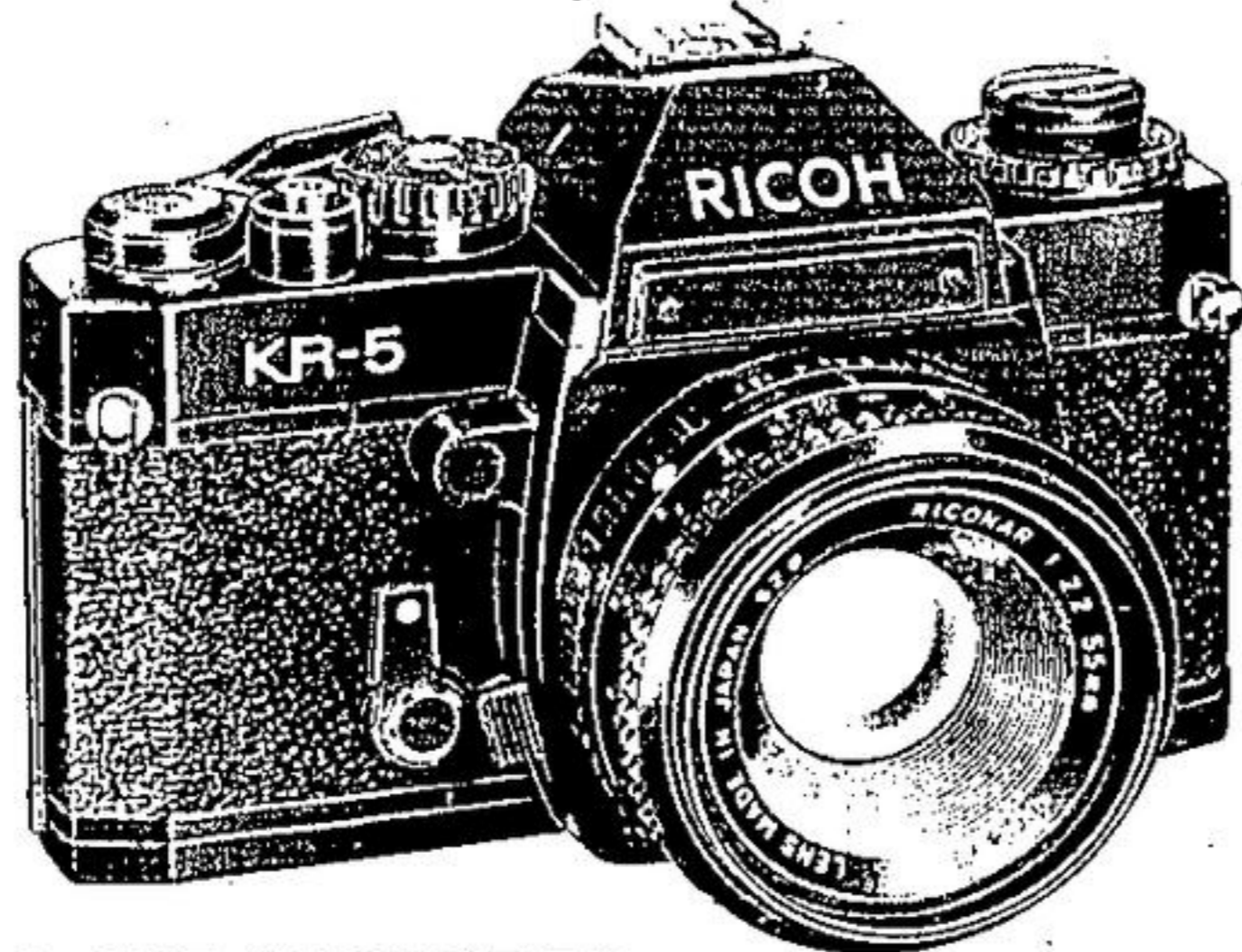
for your next social affair  
WEDDINGS • BANQUETS • RECEPTIONS •  
BUSINESS FUNCTIONS • DINNER PARTIES

Your invitation to the elegance  
of dining excellence

877-3541

37 King Street, Georgetown, Ontario.

## MAKE THE MOVE TO 35 mm with the RICOH KR-5 THIS CHRISTMAS



### SPECIAL KIT INCLUDED:

- RICOH KR-5 S.L.R.
- SLICK TRIPOD
- ARGUS AUTO FLASH
- CAMERA CASE
- SKYLIGHT FILTER
- FILM AND BATTERIES

Plus! Your first roll of film is processed & printed free of charge.

**\$299<sup>95</sup>**

YOU SAVE \$50<sup>00</sup>

### BATTERIES SPECIAL

4 AA Maxwell Batteries **ONLY \$3.99**

While they last

**CREATIVE CAMERA ENTRE 877-0411**

GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE

**KINSMEN Seniors' Social Night**  
Wed., Dec. 19th  
7:00 p.m.

- CAROLLING
- TOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- REFRESHMENTS
- DOOR PRIZES

**BUS PICK-UP**

Kincourt  
Armstrong Residence  
Sargent Residence  
Legion Hall  
Moore Park Plaza - 7:15  
Centennial Building  
Shoppers Drug Mart - 7:15

**Please Turn On Your Lights**  
Between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

ANOTHER KINSMEN COMMUNITY PROJECT.

Call Evenings  
For More Information.

**BOB MALCOLMSON**  
877-2972

**BRUCE GOUGEON**  
877-3846

**DON SMITH**  
877-1736

**Sponsors**

Kinsmen  
Delrex Smoke Shop  
Georgetown Bakery  
Mr. Donut  
Miracle Mart

M. Snider and Co. Toronto  
Travelways School Transit  
Cinemas 3  
Georgetown Herald  
St. Andrews United Church.

**DON'T LOOK ANY FURTHER!**  
— DROP IN AT —

# Cal-Craft

**THE ONE STOP CHRISTMAS SHOP**

**CHRISTMAS HOURS**

MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY  
10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**SAVE MONEY!**

MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS WITH OUR CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND RIBBONS

PAPER TOLE KITS

ART SUPPLIES

HOOKEK STUFFED ANIMALS

FRAMES

DIMENSION CREWEL & NEEDLE-POINT KITS

WOOL & PATTERNS

AFGHAN KITS

ARONELLE RUG HOOKING KIT

**WE ALSO CARRY ALL SIZES AND SHAPES OF STYROFOAM AND OTHER SUPPLIES**

**DEPEND ON US!**

**THE ONE STOP CHRISTMAS SHOP**

**GUÉLPHVIEW SQ., GEORGETOWN 877-1521**

**A.E. LePAGE**

A.E. LePAGE (ONTARIO) LTD., Halton Hills Branch (Herz) is pleased to announce that Michael Adams has joined our sales team. Michael Adams is well known in the Georgetown area and has established himself as a qualified professional. He is looking forward to the association with A.E. LePAGE (ONT.) LTD., as part of the A.E. LePage group of companies. Canada's leading totally diversified real estate broker with nearly 200 offices and divisions employing approximately 3800 people across Canada.