

Ontario Outdoors

By R.C. (BOB) OLLIVIER

When I mentioned last week about some folk taking "bushels" of Herrings in Lake Simcoe, I did not condone the taking of such large quantities of fish. Herring are plentiful and the harvest is watched fairly close. There is no season or limit on them. However, are the amounts of fish taken needed, and are they used? This is the criteria to measure against.

REMEMBER that fish huts have to be off Lake Simcoe by March 15, and this is a Saturday. Make sure that you remove it in good time or heavy fines are levied for leaving huts past the date.

There is still a lot of good fishing yet, in fact it may be the best of the season, and even after the removal of your huts, you may fish through the ice in the open. This sometimes offers the best fishing of the whole year, and the ice condition may still be good. If not then fish the breaks or open water, watching for safe footing and a good escape route. Don't take too great a chance, but Lake Front are sometimes taken on regular spinning tackle when cast from the edge of an ice flow. Like I say it is dangerous, but with caution, could be worth the risk. Now I am going to get calls and letters about sending fishermen out to risky places. That is their choice, not mine, and I won't fish this way but it is done every year.

Did you remember to mark the dates for the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show on your calendar? March 14 to 21. In next week's column I will have most of the details of the show.

Many people have told me that they are more professional than the rest, at least in their attitudes to others. Statements such as "I never go to the Sportsmen's Show", "there is nothing there for me", "I have seen everything", "that's for beginners". These statements are ridiculous. I go every year and have never failed to enjoy the show. The many new and innovative features and products at the Sportsmen's Show hold my interest and as I have stated many times, a good sportsman should never stop learning.

I feel it is significant that the Outdoor Writers of Canada hold their annual meeting there every year, and this organization boasts of men and women that are the trend setters in the outdoors field. Red Fisher, John Power, Mike Bolton, Frances MacIlquham, Mary Mastin, and a great many more. Everyone of these writers, authors and communicators enjoy the show, so why not the rest of our sportsmen and women.

MUCH TO CHEER ABOUT

The fish taken out of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario are showing less concentrations of Mirex and PCB's and even DDT. If the level of pollution can be maintained, there may be great improvement. And if the level was reduced to zero we would have much to cheer about. Heartening news, such as this, is great, but we must not let our guard down when it comes to the recent news of New York increases.

For years now, I have been making statements in this column, and have continued recently. I appreciate the response, but it does not always come from the direction I hope for. If you have something on your mind, then please call me and let's work it out. I am looking forward to a memorable year in Ontario Outdoors, let's make it that way together. There are many degrees of participation as I we can all find the one with which we are most comfortable and each respect the other.

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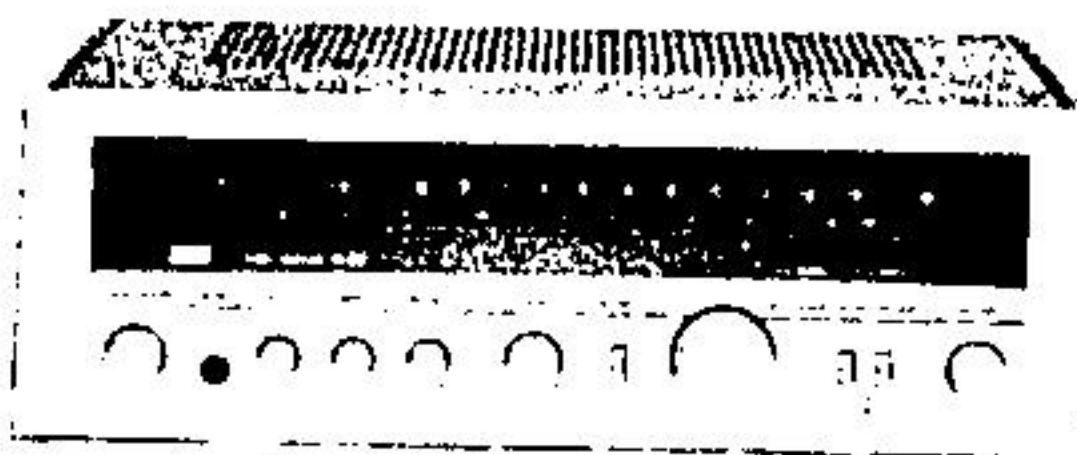
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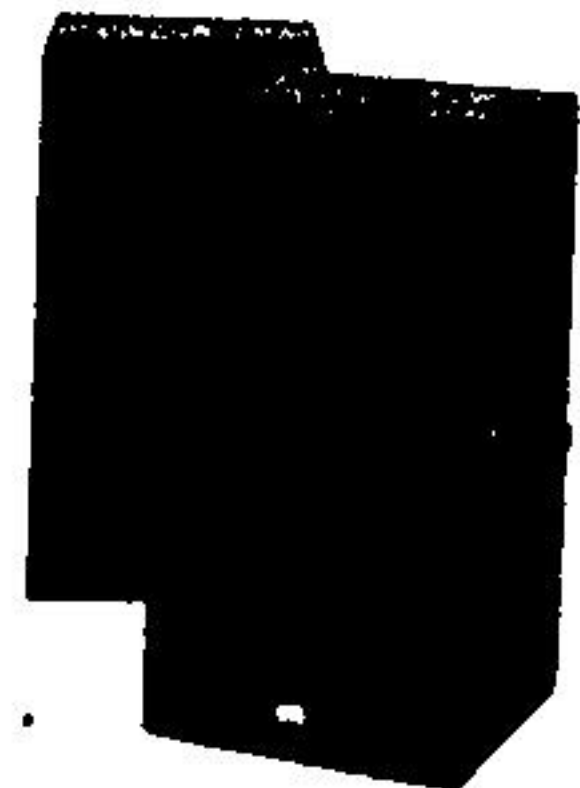


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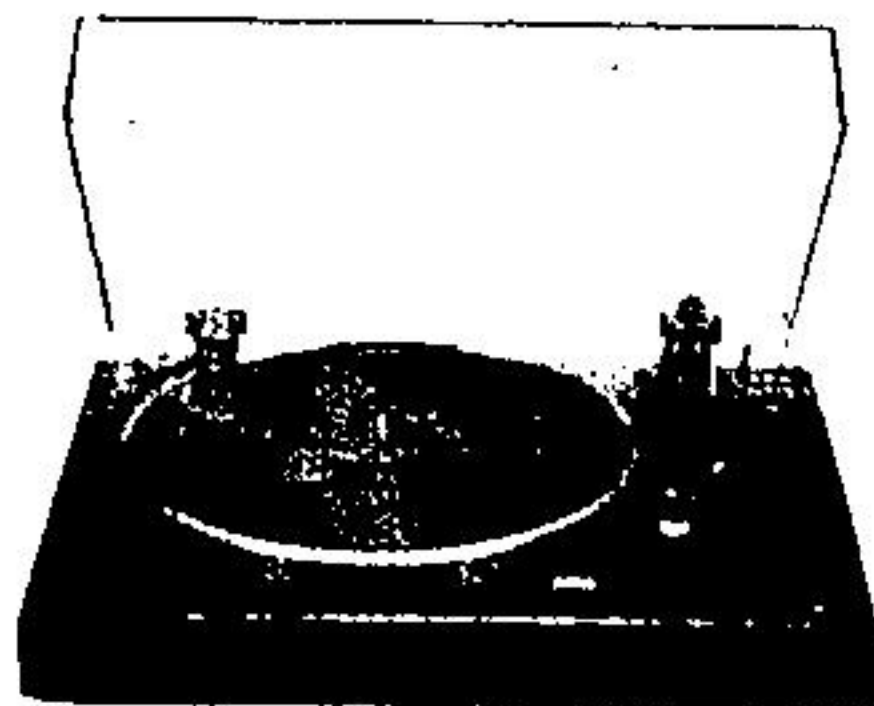
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