



Ontario Outdoors



By R.C. (BOB) OLLIVIER

Thanks Don for your care

Don Taylor of Huttonville fishes the Credit River from Streetville to Huttonville regularly. He also catches a lot of fish. Last year it was Salmon and Rainbow trout, this year it is only Rainbow.

However, those two rainbow trout Don has caught weighed three pound and 8 1/2 pound. As regular readers of this column know, the Dam at Streetville had a fishway installed last year.

This construction was partly washed away this past spring, with the result the Ministry has stopped all fish from proceeding upriver. Only a few fish made it up and some of them have shown up on fishermen's lines.

Mr. Taylor phoned me last week, and acknowledged the littering problem on our waterways as mentioned in last week's Ontario Outdoors. Thanks for your recommendation Don, and thanks for your care and concern for our outdoors.

PIKE SEASON OPEN

As you well know the pike season opened on the 9th of May, and there have been some good catches. The mouth of the Credit River has given up a few in the five pound category, and Fairy Lake in Acton has also produced well. In northern Ontario the fishing has been good for pike but a little slow for walleye. If minnows are hard to get hold of, or your bait dealer has the wrong size, then be prepared - literally. Prepare some minnows ahead of time by pickling them, then storing them in a mixture of Glycerine and water. Dead minnows on a jig work great for active walleye as well pike.

Hook them up through the head from under the jaw and out the top. Remember you are only allowed six walleye a day, so release the rest with care. The same thing applies to Pike, although most people release all their pike except for trophies to be mounted.



Lack of attention and incompleteness of the two spillways on the old Paper Mill Dam, cause an unsightly mess.

(Photo by B. Ollivier)

Here is an excellent recipe for pike and the best way I know of to avoid the many bones. Fillet as best as you can, take the fillets and cut into chunks and feed into your blender. Mix the meat with flour and seasoning to make firm and fry as fish patties.

If the oil or bacon fat is hot enough and you cook them golden brown they are about the best tasting fish there is, next to walleye possibly. The rain put a damper on the long weekend, but that did not effect the fishing. Even when the rain cleared the wet grounds made it a little uncomfortable, but if you kept your boat seat dry and your line wet, things seemed to work out fine.

CAMPING TIPS

The camping season is upon us, and the Conservation Authorities as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources, has gone all out this year with increase in camping activity. If you are new to camping, make sure that you purchase a tent of top quality, or it may ruin your experience and love of camping. Woods and Coleman make top line tents and accessories and the prices won't break the bank. Don't expect to get away cheap mind you. Like everything else it will cost, but the benefits and enjoyment are worth the cost. Read up on camping at your local library or call me for a list of books or sources of information.

AREA REVEALED

Last week I mentioned the closing of another of our local streams. As this place is now fenced, I feel I can identify it. The location is the Dam at Stewarttown where fishermen have taken brook trout for many years.

Before the mill pond filled and was drawn down, the owners would give permission to fish, and when the mill was no longer used it was made available to all.

This is the location of the daily clean-up I have been making, and now Mrs. Ursula Funke-Welters has bought the property and hopes to make a sanctuary of the pond area. The rest has been fenced off to keep out destructive forces and I cannot blame her in one way. Sorry folks but it's our own doing. Honest fishermen are not the ones to blame, but those who fish on occasion, or only as an excuse to drink and make trouble. But we all must suffer as result, so report those trouble makers when you see them or take the license number and report the time, location and that number.

Haltom's Scuba Trek club

Nothing quite like underwater world

Scuba diving is like visiting another world, but you have to learn to relax before you'll enjoy what you're doing, says Haltom's Scuba Trek president Walter Noble.

Noble, of 55 Victoria in Acton, started Scuba diving for the first time nine years ago with his brother-in-law, an instructor of the sport with the Armed Forces. He and his brother-in-law were very active in their diving excursions in the Parry Sound area. As Noble became more confident as a diver he ventured down to the 30 foot mark which is considered a respectable depth.

Since then Noble has dived with friends in a variety of different favorite spots around the province. Some of the areas he frequents are Midland, Lake Muskoka, Kingston, Saranac, Acton, Lake Simcoe and Tobermory.

Many of the excursions Noble has been on were with members of the Scuba Trek club which has about 10 active members. He intimates that the small numbers in the club are an advantage because each of the divers know each other well. The close buddy system divers use depends on the experience and common sense of their partner.

BUDDY SYSTEM
He says that divers in his club always swim in pairs

because serious problems can occur even to the most experienced divers. "You don't dive with fools," Noble says.

One four-year veteran was diving with the club and made a series of mistakes which not only threatened his own life but the lives of his fellow divers. Needless to say the gentleman is no longer involved with the Scuba Trek club.

Relaxation is the key to becoming a good diver, Noble says. He's confident that Canadian divers are the most skilled at their sports because of the number of black water and cold water experiences they encounter.

BLACK WATER
Black Water is a case where a lake has become very silty because no vegetation grows on the bottom. A good sense of orientation is required to navigate the waters.

Cold water exists about 30 feet below the surface of lake water and hypothermia, a drastic lowering of the body temperature, can occur to the point where it can kill. The thermocline is a line, below the water where the water always stays the same temperature. In Tobermory the thermocline temperature is about 36 degrees Fahrenheit while the warmest temperature is about 58 degrees Fahrenheit, Noble says.

Tobermory on Georgian Bay is a popular spot for scuba and skin divers but the area is overpopulated with divers, some of them inexperienced divers from the United States with no knowledge of the dangers of hypothermia, Noble says.

HAIR-RAISING
To emphasize how level-headed a diver must be in certain situations Noble related two hair-raising adventures he experienced. Diving at 70 feet below the surface, Noble's breathing apparatus failed and he had to chase after his partner who was swimming away from him. Luckily they found each other and slowly shared their oxygen until the divers reached the surface.

Another time Noble was diving down an abandoned underwater mine shaft where the various maze of tunnels and the blackness made sight impossible. The club president became disoriented and for a moment he did not know if he was swimming up or down the mine shaft. Due to calm thinking he felt for his air bubbles and re-oriented his direction this way.

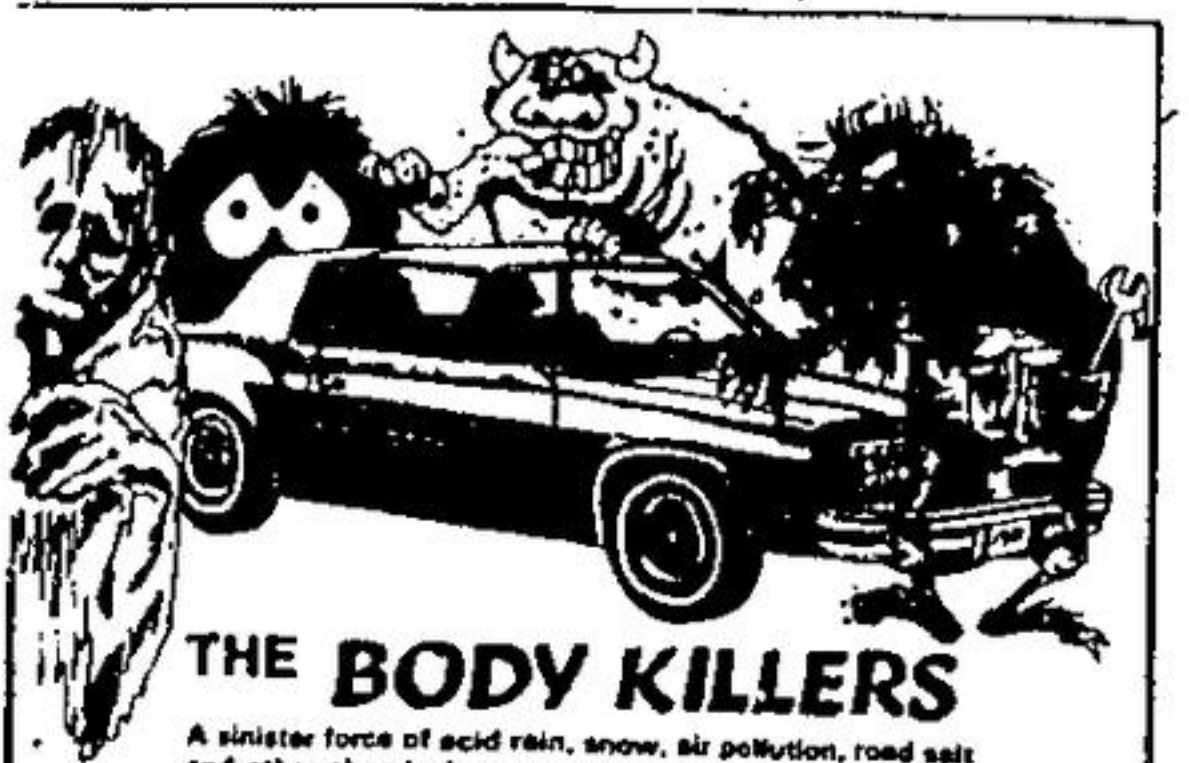
But every diver in the Haltom Trek club is tested by the rest of the group to see if they can withstand pressure under emergency situations. They are "checked out" by the veterans at Tobermory who pull equipment away from the rookies, disorient them in the water and study their reactions.

Noble stresses that survival underwater is much different than on land because "time is on your side". He mentioned the amount of

studies that have been done to analyze diving deaths and he says most occur through either inexperience or plain lack of common sense such as diving when you are too tired.

In the Winter the Scuba

Trek divers sometimes take to the depths of Fairy Lake for a polar bear swim under the ice. Two winters ago a W-5 television crew recorded the event as pairs of divers swam under the ice using tow lines and tug signals.



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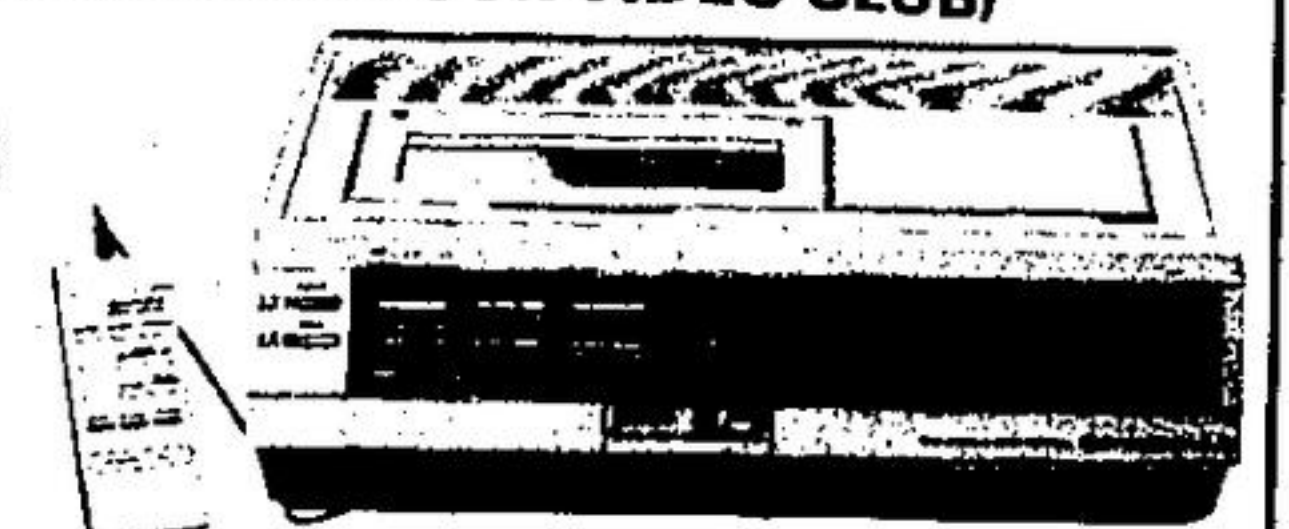
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IN THE GYM

The Stewarttown gymnastics team finished their season after many individuals distinguished themselves in competition in a meet at Brockville last April 15. Seen here are team members with coach Cindy Burns: (back row, left to right) Karen Herrmann, Eileen Carrigan, Deborah Barnes, Christine Leonard, Liz Majurey, (front row) Leslie Bick, Judy Thomson, Carol Early and Lisa Mitchell. (Herald photo)

Warners seem set for Boston marathon

With the marathon season starting Georgetown's long-distance runners are beginning to travel. At last weekend's heralded Ottawa marathon, a number of local runners participated.

Courtney Warner ran the 26-mile race with his wife Anita and they finished in a time of three hours and 29 minutes.

Warner and his wife are both able to run in the Masters age category. The husband and wife duo always run together in their marathons and Courtney says it's a matter of him, "keeping up with my wife." Anita Warner finished in a time that enables her to qualify for the prestigious Boston marathon next year if she so chooses.

FIRST OF THE YEAR

For the Warners it was the first marathon of the year and the second marathon they have run since they began taking up running seriously three years ago. Courtney Warner is one of the members of the Haltom Hills Mayor's Race committee.

Also competing from Georgetown were Brian Markham and Carol Passas who are not Master runners but fall below that age category. Carol was running her first marathon and she completed the course in the impressive time of four hours, four minutes.



Boston marathon qualifier Anita Warner (left) sits with her husband Courtney and friend Carol Passas. Carol completed the marathon, which was her first in just over four hours.

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