MNR, residents want 'bear' facts on area sightings

By MAGGIE HANNAH

Herald Special Although bears have apparently been seen several times in recent weeks in Milton (Nassagaweya) and Eramosa Townships, no one has reported the sightings to the ministry of natural resources.

Bruce Buckland, wildlife officer for the ministry's Cambridge office said the ministry heard indirectly of a sow and cub being seen in the Acton area this summer - but that's

Meanwhile Vince Synott, a beef farmer on the Fourth Line, three miles south of Rockwood, said he saw bear in with his cattle a couple of weeks ago.

He was watering his garden at dusk and looked up to see his herd running as hard as they could go through a field by a swamp. He saw a long, heavy shaggy creature jogging along behind them.

"It was too long and heavy for any dog," he said. "I went into the house for my rifle and then I went down through the field. The dog stayed right with me and he sniffed around very suspicously but he never left my side. It's just as well as I

didn't see it, I guess. My gun isu't heavy enough for a bear."

highway. Before that, however, rumor has it that a group of school

near them. Contractors building a house on 25 Sideroad and the Nassagaweya Fourth Line are also reported to have seen a bear and one or two cubs at least

A Sixth Line resident just

Calvin Altken, the man who shot a bear north of Acton last summer, said he hasn't been called for bears this year although he knows people definitely are seeing them in the

the food within the recom-

mended period for optimum

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If you're never quite sure what you have on hand in the freezer, or frequently discover last year's produce with this year's supply, take a few tips in organization from the Glad Home Freezing Information Centre.

When home freezing any commodity, use a bag size that corresponds to the size of your family. Glad freezer bags, for example, come in three sizes so you can choose one that suits the number of servings you normally require for one meal. That way, you don't have to open and close the bag several times, which can allow air in and cause freezer burn. Be sure to date the food on the label provided. Keep each type of food in a separate section of the freezer, making sure that the freshest food is placed on the bottom so the oldest food is used up first.

If your family is small, consider double-bagging your food. Use the small size Glad freezer bags to freeze just énough for one meal, remove the air with the straw provided and close tightly with the twist Then place several small bags in a larger freezer bag and label. This cuts down on the number of labels you have to fill out and helps keep the freezer organized, making it easier for you to use up

Between two and three weeks ago, Patricia Lazenby of Crewson's Corners, saw a black bear at the back of her parents' lot just north of the

children waiting for the bus on the Town Line and Eramosa 5 Sideroud had a bear appear

twice near the construction

north of 25 Sideroad sald he heard a very strange noise one morning last week but saw nothing in the dark at 4 a.m. It was too dry to find tracks but when he discussed the sounds with people who know wildlife, they tell him he probably had

a bear in his backyard.

A culvert is baited with something probably putrefied meat since the odor will lest longest and travel further than that of honey or blueberries. and trap doors on either end are rigged to close, once the animal is inside. Then the bear in the trap is hoisted aboard a small truck and taken off to be released in some less populated spot.

tabs on them.

als, he said,

If there is public demand to

have them removed, it would

be the ministry's job to try and

live trap the animal or anim-

Landowners to whom there

is potential danger or damage

to their livestock always have

Trapping bears is a difficult

task since they range over a

wide area, Mr. Buckland said.

That is why the ministry would

like to be informed of sightings

since it might help to establish

a pattern to their movements

and make capture easier if it

If trapping becomes neces-

sary the ministry will have to

go to Northern Ontario for a

culvert trap such as is com-

becomes necessary...

monly used there.

Mr. Buckland said the minlstry can't figure out why the area seems to have an influx of bears over the past four years. There are a number of bears in the Bruce Peninsula, he sald, but it is a pretty long trip for a bear. They could be following the escarpment, he said, or they could be following the river valleys though the blg swamps down from Barrie.

The other possibility, and the one of which the ministry if most susplcious, is that someone may be pen-rearing the animals, then releasing them. "We'd almost have to cap-

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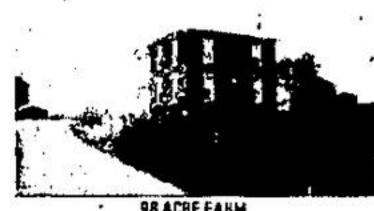


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ture a bear to determine if they Mr. Buckland sald the minisare pen-reared," he said. "A try would like to be informed of pen-reared animal might sightings. It isn't their busihave more flesh on its bones ness to go into the area and and it's claws would be worn destroy the animals just beoff in a different way if they cause they're here, but they were held in cement-floored would be interested in keeping pens."

> The bear situation in Nassagaweya-Eramosa is very slmilar to one the ministry is encountering near the Six Nations Indian Reserve at Brantford, Mr. Buckland said. where they are having a rash of cougars.

the rights to kill bears, he The ministry is very suspicious that someone has bears and is releasing them for some

"We wish we knew who might have the bears," he sald. "The only place in our area licenced to keep bears is

the African Lion Safari. But people keep the damnest things with these exotic pets now. They don't seem to realize what problems they'll cause for them and then they think they can just let them go rather than destroying them when they get into difficulties. They just don't realize what problems they cause the pub-

If the ministry knew who had the bears, they'd either go in and licence them or seize the bears and close them down, he

It is possible that the owner who is releasing the animals could live outside the jurisdiction of the ministry's Cambridge office and therefore the animals are coming from out-



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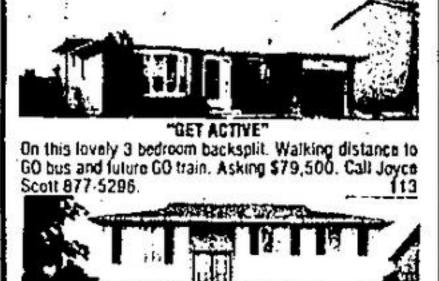
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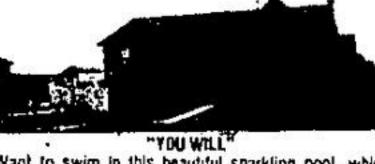
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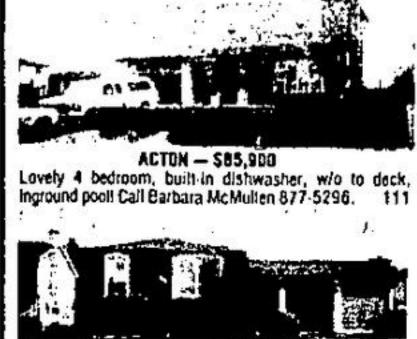
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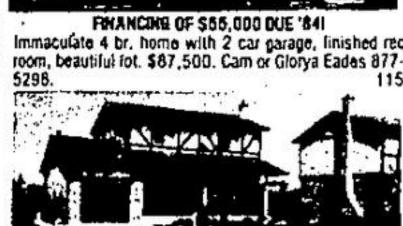
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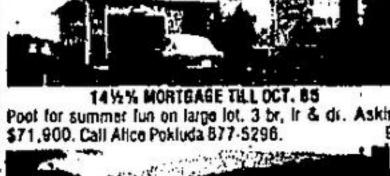
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