

# Using alcohol as alternative car fuel one 'Bell' of a great idea

Alcohol has been used as a fuel for, well, decades? Centuries?

History doesn't record when the first person discovered that alcohol would burn, and invented the first alcohol lamp.

But ever since, people have been using it as a fuel in one way or another.

The invention of the modern internal combustion engine in the late 1800's brought a new use for alcohol — powering the first cars.

But alcohol was edged out of the automobile business by petroleum. In the early part of the 20th century, oil was being discovered in abundance, and consequently it was very cheap.

Alcohol, on the other hand, was expensive to make — far more so than refining petroleum. And so alcohol as a fuel faded into the background.

At least one man, however, did not lose faith.

Alexander Graham Bell, the great inventor, predicted petroleum shortages within a few decades, and high prices.

"The world's consumption

of fuel has become an enormous one, and it is not possible to supply it for many generations more," Bell wrote in 1922.

The alternative he suggested was alcohol.

"... a beautifully clean and efficient fuel," Bell called it, "which can be produced from vegetable matter of almost any kind. The waste products of our farms are all available, and even the garbage of our cities."

Even Alexander Graham Bell could hardly have foreseen the increase in petroleum consumption between 1922 and 1981, or the fact that

within only one generation the world is facing shortages in petroleum supply, and skyrocketing prices.

But he was right about alcohol: it is becoming a real alternative to gasoline.

At this time, alcohol is still more expensive than gasoline, but as oil prices rise, alcohol will become cost competitive.

It will become cost competitive to 1.6 billion litres of gasoline and diesel fuel.

If you'd like to learn more about the program, and about alcohol as an alternative to gasoline, write to ENERGY SCOPE, c/o Ministry of Energy, GMS Box 37, Queen's Park, Toronto.

## Freezing corn ears carefully

When it comes to home freezing, some myths die hard. Each year, many consumers inevitably write to the Glad Home Freezing Information Centre asking about the correct way to freeze corn. A relative or family friend swears that their method of freezing corn without blanching works, but the consumer complains that when she tries it that way, her corn tastes "like hay".

The truth is that corn, more than most vegetables, needs proper blanching, says the Centre. If Aunt Daisy is getting good results without blanching, she must be eating her corn within a few weeks. Otherwise the enzymes that occur naturally in all vegetables will start to age the corn, causing those "hay-like" flavors.

To de-activate those enzymes, you need to cook the corn during blanching right through to the cob — something that isn't necessary if you are eating the corn fresh.

That's why corn should be blanched for seven minutes for small cobs, nine minutes for medium cobs and 11 minutes for large cobs.

Bag as usual in a good quality heavy-duty freezer bag such as the Glad variety which comes in three sizes, including medium which is suitable for cobs of corn.

to extract all the air with the accompanying straw and date the label provided.

# Fighting bass on Nova Scotia's Stewiacke River

**Herald Special**

The Stewiacke River, in west central Nova Scotia, is a tributary of the Shubenacadie River which, in turn, is a saltwater estuary entering either in or exiting out of Cobequid Bay depending on the flow of the tide.

Cobequid Bay is an inland extension of Minas Basin and the Bay of Fundy and, together with the tidal rivers, provides striped bass fishing that has helped make Nova Scotia a noted name in international sport angling.

It was decided by my two native Nova Scotian fishing companions that I would be introduced to striped bass fishing in the upper reaches of the Stewiacke. Their knowledge and humor combined in a perfect mixture of essential instruction, complemented by chuckle-a-minute entertainment.

To the uninitiated inlander, unaccustomed to salt-water estuaries, the tide action is something to behold.

Just to launch a boat at low tide is a tricky undertaking.

The slippery, fine-grained red mud coating the steep high banks necessitates an other-like slither down to the water. If you lose your footing, you can easily acquire a layer or two of mud and end up in the drink.

Fortunately, a suitable launch site was known to my river-wise companions and we were soon away and trolling the river.

Like many longtime fishing and hunting partners, Bill Bryson and Albert Abraham, both of Truro, Nova Scotia, kept up a steady exchange of wisecracking banter on how to do everything from fighting a fish to running the motor.

Bill opted for going downstream and coming back up with the incoming tide. Albert stated we should stay upriver in the clear water — the Stewiacke turns brick red from sediment with the rise of the tide.

We were using surf casting reels with a nine kilo (20 pound) test line. You need stout cordage to handle these iron-jawed batters, according to the experienced anglers.

Bill scored first with a five kilo (10 pound) striper and after two valiant runs, it was brought to net.

Bryson immediately recounted how it was almost the same spot where he had hooked a 13 kilo (30 pound) fighter two years ago.

He was fishing from shore and he gave a dramatic account of how he was unable to turn the fish and had to jump in a boat and eventually, after a long struggle, succeeded in landing his prize nearly a kilometre (½ mile) downstream from where the battle had started.

Abraham couldn't sit silently by without adding a bit of banter.

"Are you going to leave out the part where the fish was running so fast that you had to abandon the boat and

commandeer a motorcycle and ride along the bank just to keep up?"

Bill assumed a resigned silence.

Albert boated a three kilo (7 pound) scrapper while later, prompting Bryson to remark, "no need for a motorcycle this time."

The incoming tide was rapidly filling the steep-sided riverbed with the inevitable rolling of the water with sediment. The novice basser hadn't had a strike and now the water was brick red with silt.

The chances for my first striped bass were apparently growing dim.

"My idea was to stay upriver in the clear water," Al Abraham pointed out, "but of course Chingachook here..."

The exonerated Chingachook was at hand however. The line started stripping off my reel at such a rate

that it fairly buzzed.

The striper made three separate runs which prompted a continuous three-way exchange of instructions which had everyone talking and nobody listening.

After what seemed like an eternity, Bryson held up my seven kilo (15 pound) silver-sided beauty for all to admire.

Both Bryson and Abraham agree on one thing — the striped bass is not only a valiant fighter but is one of the tastiest of saltwater sportfish.

The Annapolis River, which flows into the Bay of Fundy on the west coast of Nova Scotia, is regarded as the most popular sea bass fishing river on the Atlantic.

The Dunromin Campsite on the banks of the French Basin (a fluvial widening of the Annapolis River) is the place to park, camp and fish.

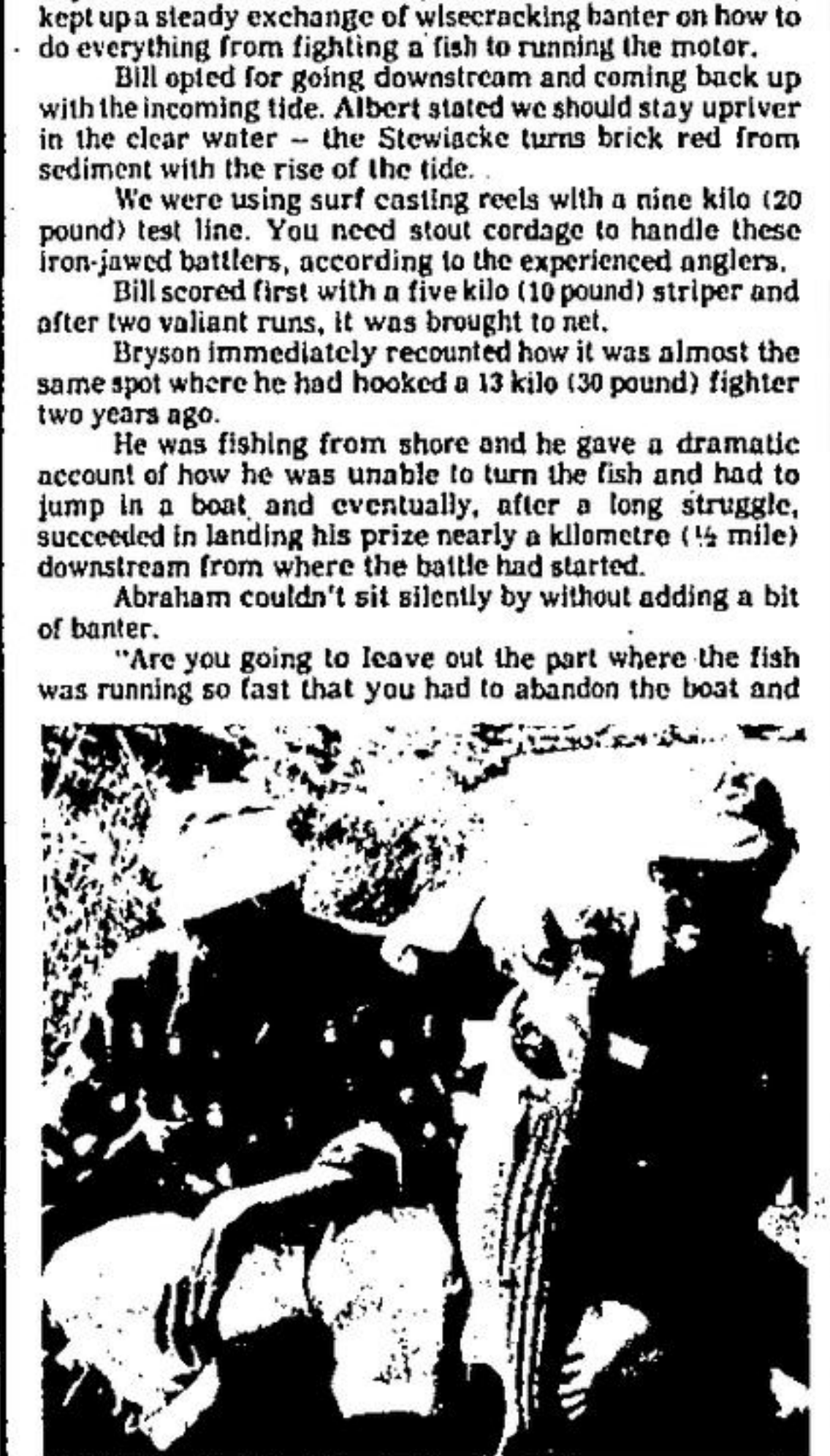
The camp is located just a few hundred meters (300 yards) east of the Annapolis River Causeway which almost eliminates the awesome effect of the 16 m (54 feet) Bay of Fundy tides, the highest in the world.

The campsite is fully serviced for campers and trailers and also offers boats for rent plus a complete line of fishing equipment.

The Annapolis has produced sea bass up to 23 kilos (51 pounds), with fish in the seven to 12 kilo range (15 to 25 pounds) considered common.

Your hosts at Dunromin Campsite are Carman and Bill Johns and they can be contacted at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, Canada.

For general information on Canada as a travel destination contact the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, Ottawa, Canada, KIA 0H6.



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