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## Georgetown Anglers and Hunters Association Sportsman's Show

### Event likely to be annual Group happy with Show

Although it had less than four months to plan and organize the show, Georgetown's Anglers and Hunters Association is quite pleased with how its first annual Sportsman's Exhibition turned out this weekend.

"We didn't have as much time as we would like to have had for the planning, but I'm not disappointed," said Association vice-president Steve Gemesi. "I guess the one thing we learned was to start planning a

lot earlier. "There were some exhibitors who couldn't come because they didn't have enough notice. Some exhibitors start planning for shows a year in advance," he said. Gemesi said the club

decided upon holding the exhibition almost on the spur of the moment. He added the reasoning for holding such a show was to see if it would indeed get off the ground. He said the people he talked to during the three-day show held at

the Alcott Arena were quite receptive to the idea. "I talked to some of those exhibitors in the show and they weren't disappointed," he said. "The crowds were not that big, but they were

steady. Like I said I wasn't disappointed." The Association will hold a meeting this week, and the Sportsman Exhibition is likely to be the main subject discussed. Gemesi said he expects the show to become an annual affair.



Damian Karlsson, 10, gets close up to a black Bear. Fortunately for him, this one has been made into a rug.



Carver Stephen Robinson works on a paddle. The Woodbridge resident custom carves paddles as well as makes canoes out of trees.



Georgetown Anglers and Hunters Association member Jan Kosler, equipped with a fancy hat, helps 11-year-old Ryan Scott aim at the Turkey shoot exhibit.



Five-year-old Joe Bernard is all smiles as he has a pair of wild turkey chicks to cuddle up with.

### Birds of prey ensuring safer airports

By DAN RALPH  
Herald Sports Editor  
Ulrich Watermann has always had a deep love and respect for birds so it is no surprise he has developed those aspects into a professional career.

The Glen Williams resident operates UW Enterprises, which is a business specializing in airport bird control. Essentially Watermann owns birds of prey he uses at airports to scare off species like ring-billed gulls and thus ensure safer runways.

He got involved in the project in 1970 after reading in a newspaper Toronto International Airport (now Lester B. Pearson) was having problems with increasing numbers of Snowy Owls. Having arrived from Germany just three years earlier, Watermann and a friend went to see if they could catch a glimpse of the owl as they are quite rare in Germany.

"We saw one, and were quite happy," he said. "All of a sudden a member of the maintenance crew drove up and shot the very bird we were watching. That's when we thought we had better do something so we got a license to trap and remove the birds. We would band and release those we caught at Wolf Island near Kingston."

From that point on Watermann has increased his level of involvement with birds to the stage where he is at today. He owns several falcons and other birds of prey and uses them to keep airports free of increasing numbers of birds.

He has birds at CFB Trenton as well as Toronto. Before Watermann's birds were in Trenton, planes lost between 10 and 20 engines a year. Since 1979 only one plan engine has been lost.

Watermann's birds don't necessarily kill all the other birds in the area he said. "If one of my birds has a ring-billed gull and it is still alive, I'll release it. It leaves the

area quite quickly and has a way of telling other birds not to go into the area," he said. "In Toronto we're killing less gulls than would be killed by the planes."

If left to reproduce indiscriminately, gulls and other birds can cause a dangerous hazard to incoming planes. They invariably can get caught in a plane's engines which could result in a crash.

In addition to falcons, Watermann uses owls and golden eagles, depending on the situation. For example if Snowy Owls, pidgeons and starlings are causing problems, the presence of an eagle will soon diminish

the numbers in the specific area.

Watermann is quite critical of the Ministry of Natural Resources' attempts of reviving the birds of prey populations in Ontario. He said their attempts are not very good ones.

"They're letting peregrine falcons raised on quail go in downtown Toronto and Algonquin Park. If a bird has been raised on quail, it is going to look for quail. Where is there quail in Ontario? Besides, there are a lot of Goshawks in Algonquin Park, and to them a peregrine is a welcomed breakfast. "Why don't they re-

lease their birds in the Niagara Escarpment? That's where the last falcons were known to have bred," he said. "Also, letting them go on the Toronto Waterfront would be better too because of the gull population there."

Having been involved with birds for much of his life, Watermann does have some amazing stories about the animals.

"I had one falcon at Toronto and a bald eagle tried to attack it. The Peregrine held on to the eagle with its talons until help arrived. I didn't believe it until I actually saw it. The eagle now is at the Mountsbert Wildlife Centre."



**GLENDALE**  
CAPTAIN: Dale Wood

Dale Wood stands beside one of the trophies one could latch on to while out on a charter boat fishing. Wood had an exhibit at the weekend show.



Out in the wild, getting close to a bull moose like this one would be quite difficult. Yet even when the animal has been mounted, touching it means getting a chair for seven-year-old Aaron McLaughlin.



Ulrich Watermann proudly displays one of the falcons he has working for him. Watermann uses the birds to fend off other birds around airport areas. Here he shows 10-year-old Kevin Shaw a Peregrine Falcon.

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