

# Capt. Curtis and his Kosh Lake crew

Poor Curtis. He'd had a good day up until this point. Obviously, he had gotten his line stuck on one of the large pontoons that kept our boat afloat.

When my buddy Mike indicated earlier that four-year-old Curtis was coming along on this fishing day, I happily concurred. There was something about his innocent enthusiasm that reminded me of another little boy with whom I was once very familiar...

"Too bad" I'd disagreed, anyway... It was Mike's boat.

So, the crew was complete: Mike, Gerald (another fishing "expert"), myself, and of course, our excited captain.

The only problem we'll have with Curtis, I thought, will be keeping him from jumping into the lake after any escaping fish.

We placed Curtis in a safe position on the big pontoon boat's deck, and then we were off in search of any promising bay holding cooperative quarry. In this lake officially named Kashaabog (near Peterborough) there are scores of well-protected woodbeds and stumpy bays. This was just perfect because with our captain along, we wanted some fast easy action: perch, sunfish, small bass... they didn't have to be big; they just had to be hungry (and over the span of time these types have yet to refuse a meal).

We settled upon a warm, shallow, lily-pod-infested inlet that connected with some nearby deep water. Curtis had shown himself to be an eager, determined pupil.

We took turns showing him the fine art of threading a juicy dew-worm, Texas-style, onto a number-eight hook. We took the time to inject a little air bubble into the distal end of the worm, to allow for flotation of the bait from the mucky bottom. We pinched a little split-shot sinker (about eighteen inches proximal to the hook). We encouraged him to practise his technique of casting with his ZEBCO, spin-cast, push-button type reel. We set his drag-control fairly lightly... you never know when something bit might be fooled... And Curtis was doing just



LEON TUNES and OUTDOOR NOTES by Len Landry

fine, thank you, and he was enjoying landing his small, seemingly famished fish... then releasing them to swim again.

The warm July sun beat down upon the crew as the three elder statesmen enjoyed a food break.

Captain Curtis? Well, he continued to fish, and squeal in delight, and occasionally ask for a helping hand.

With typical four-year-old stubbornness, he insisted upon trying a lure from his own tiny, beater-up, plastic tackle box. He chose a Mepps spinner, adorned with imitation minnow; the only problem was that the spinner blade was missing, and so was the hook! We forced a small number-eight through the plastic minnow and tied the homely contraption onto the end of his line.

The captain tossed his bait into the water, zig-zagging it back and forth. I settled back into my meal, as well as fishing tales, taking a seat and squinting at the brilliant water reflections.

But now, poor Curtis seemed to have his line stuck, probably on the bottom of one pontoon... funny thing though... his fishing rod was not beating to the same time as his efforts to free the hook... not playing the same tune, if you wish...

Oh, Curtis was stuck all right... he was stuck onto a four pound smallmouth bass!

If there had been any earlier doubts, the bronze bomber surely made his presence known with a patented, head-shaking, water-spraying leap! And...

Smash! Back into the water...

Now, down, down, down went this battler as Curtis' drag-control sang the happy note of a fish making a

determined bid for freedom.

Three hot-dogs hit the deck simultaneously as three elder crew members abandoned their repart to join in the action. Gerald helped with the rod and reel; I grabbed the net; Captain Curtis hung onto his fishing pole, silently, eyes gaping wide in astonishment.

"Don't lose this fish, boys!" Mike shouted. (Where have we heard that line before?) The bass finally succumbed; the crew settled back, laughing because we realized that this was going to be the biggest fish caught on this day, and the captain had done the trick with a piece of plastic that looked like a guppy with rigor mortis.

We convinced Mike to have the fish mounted for the boy and it remains in their home as a testament to a truly exciting experience. Curtis still talks of the fish that "we" caught and I admire his use of the plural pronoun.

To summarize, when taking a child, or novice angler, fishing for the first few times, follow the 'S'-rules:

1. Keep things Simple (I prefer push-button spincast type reels), and we "bait-up" with hook and worm.
2. Choose a Species that's cooperative (panfish like perch, sunfish, rock bass, as well as stocked speckled trout are favorites).
3. Success is more important that Size to a youngster.
4. Teach your child "Safety on the Water".
5. Finally, when the fishing is slow, try to foster a Sense of Satisfaction in simply enjoying the great outdoors.

If you do all of this, you'll preserve another 'S': Your Sanity...

**SHORELINES...** "Muskie Probe II" will be held on April 23, in the 'Ontario Room' of the MacDonald Block, 900 Bay Street in Toronto. The cost is \$5 for the day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Call (416) 493-1912 (evenings) or (416) 488-6666 (daytime) for information...

Coming in two weeks:  
A Tribute to Trout



The Centennial School Blue team won the Grade 6 girls' volleyball team, hosted by the school last Thursday. Members of the team are, front row, from left, Stacey Colarossi, Sachia Kron, Heidi Wermke, Jenn Symmes, Andrea Seeds, and Kathy Wanner. Back row, Julie Atkinson (Coach), Deanna Guignard, Carrie Gilles, Tanya McMaster, and Danielle McTaggart. Absent was Carrie Morris. (Herald photo)

### Pick a color

## Mystery out of volleyball final

All the intrigue was taken out of determining a champion in the Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Tournament at Centennial School Thursday, when two teams from the host school squared off in a best-of-three grand finale.

The Centennial Green squad swept the final series in straight games, winning 15-5, 15-11 against their Blue team counterparts.

A total of 10 teams were entered in the tournament, playing in two round robin pools of five teams each. The top two teams in each pool advanced to semifinal play.

Centennial Green took top honors in their pool with wins over Holy Cross (19-3), Park (20-4), Sam Sherratt (17-8), and Brookville (27-3).

Round robin games were played with a time limit, so scores varied.

Centennial Blue narrowly took top honors in the other pool with wins against Stewarttown (12-9), McKenzie-Smith (12-8), and W.I. Dick (10-8), while losing to St. Francis (7-16).

In the semifinals, Centennial Green won a sudden death match-up with Stewarttown by a score of 15-10. In the other semifinal, Centennial Blue defeated Sam Sherratt 15-7, setting the stage for an all-Centennial final.

The Green team won the first game of the championship final handily by a 15-5 margin, but in the second game the Blue squad did their

best to force a third and deciding match.

Green jumped out to a 6-0 lead before Blue stormed back to tie the game, and eventually go in front 8-6. But Green regrouped to go on to win the title.

The Green team was presented with the championship trophy, and gold medals, while the members of the Blue team were given runners-up medals.

All the teams competing in the tournament were comprised of Grade 6 students, except for Park School's entry. They were a Grade 5 team, but after winning their championship title, they decided to try themselves against the older teams.

## Ball hockey season gets rolling

The first game of the 1988 season in the Georgetown Senior Ball Hockey League, featured a strong offensive showing by Midas Top Guns and Choice Air, as they battled to a 6-6 deadlock last Tuesday night.

Martin Thissen, with a pair of goals, and Eddy Dale with a single gave Choice Air a 3-2 lead after the opening period. Replaying for the Top Guns were Lou Laskis and Joe Oreskovic.

Midas took a 4-3 lead in the second, as Laskis tallied his second of the night, and Tony Kovacevic scored on a nice solo effort.

In the third, both teams scored late to set up a dramatic finish. Midas went ahead 6-5, only to have Choice Air tie the game on a goal with 12 seconds remaining.

Oreskovic added his second of the game for the Top Guns, while Randy Weldon had the other marker. For Choice Air, Bruce McPherson and John Balic scored third period goals, while Thissen notched the equalizer for his third of the game.

In other league action, the McEgibbon Hawks' winning ways of last season carried over, as they defeated the Pontiac Fieros 7-3.

After two periods of play, the

Hawks enjoyed a comfortable 6-3 lead and never looked back.

Leading the charge for the Hawks was Ian Syme with two goals and three assists. Bill Fournier chipped in with three goals, while singles went to Larry Peterson, and Brian Hunzinger.

Replaying for the Fieros were Chris Milne, Doug Anderson, and Doug Thompson.

The final game of the evening saw Dave's Service Centre jump out to a 4-0 first period lead, and then hang

on for a 6-4 win, as Kentners mounted a comeback. Don Blewett with a pair, and Gary Bovair and Marty Weaven with singles accounted for Dave's scoring.

In the second, Kentners came to life with three straight goals from Al Hay, Dave Avery, and Don Parker, but Dave's put the game away when Bovair scored two more goals to round out his hat-trick.

George Coyle rounded out the 6-4 final when he scored in the third for Kentners.

### Children learn way of the woods

Children ages 8-12 can anticipate another adventure-filled summer at the "Ways of the Woods" day camp, sponsored by the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

From July 4 to Aug. 26, participants can choose a one-week or two-week program of swimming, canoeing, Indian crafts, songs and dances, archaeology, or exploring the natural world of insects, owls, mammals, ponds and streams.

There is one overnight camp during the second week of a two-week session.

Transportation is provided to and from the park to Halton residents. Participants visit Kelso, Rattlesnake Point, Mount Nemo and Crawford Lake Conservation Areas as well as Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, which is the base camp.

The cost is \$40/week/child; second child is \$35/week.

Registration forms and further information is available from the Halton Region Conservation Authority at 336-1156 or the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre at 854-2278.

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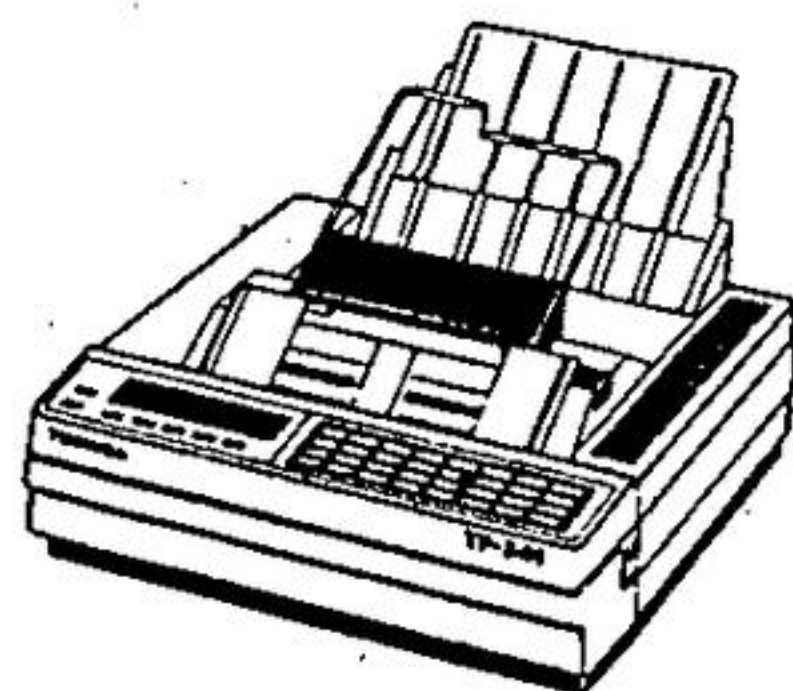
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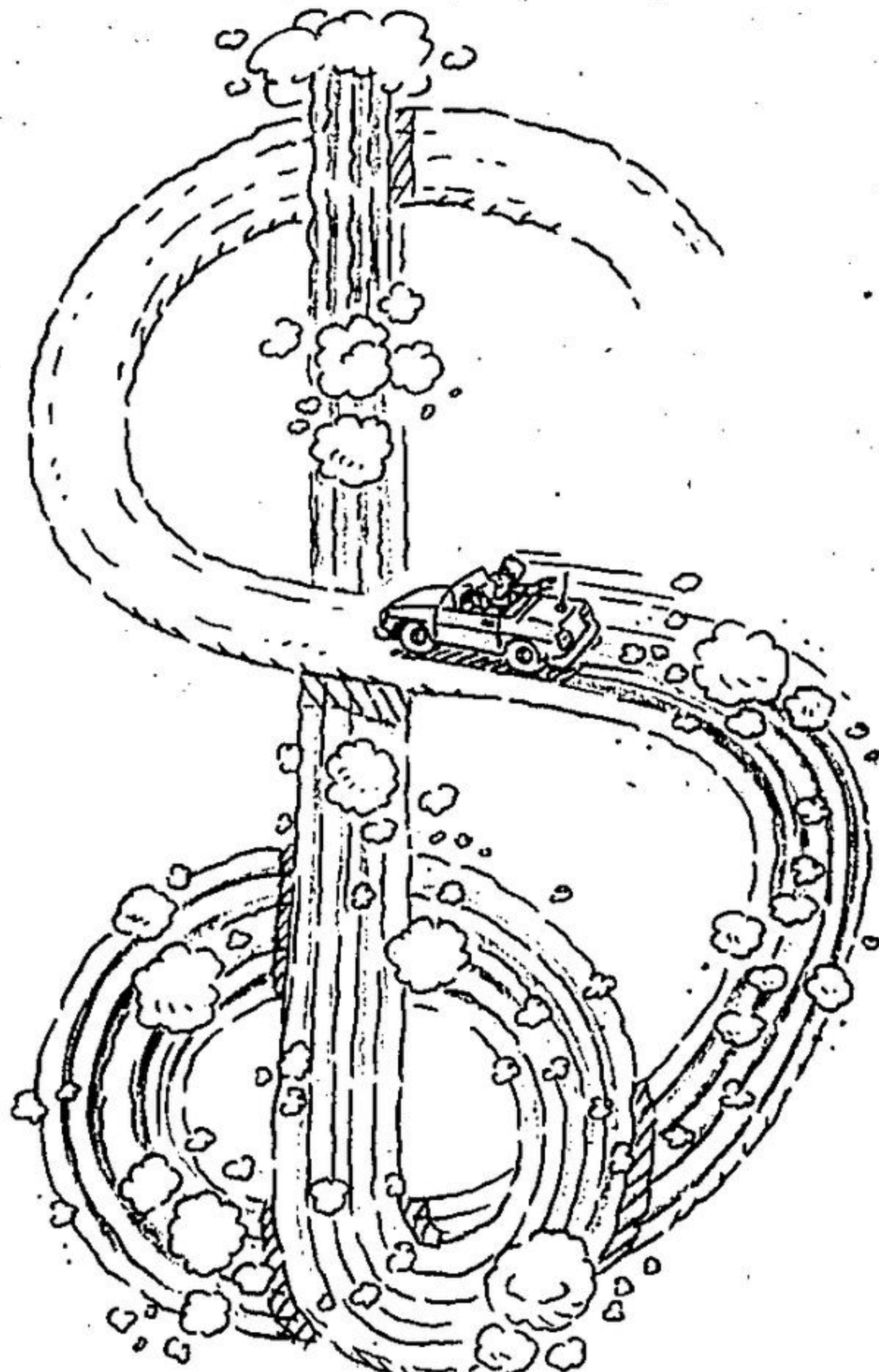
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