

# Is angler's reaction old or just old-fashioned?



LOON TUNES  
and  
OUTDOOR NOTES  
by Len Landry

"Just consider it a new style, Len. It's nothin' to get upset about," Reed explained.

"Well, that's a style I can do without," I shot back, only partly in jest. "And you can forget about fishin' with me as long as you insist on this new sporting fashion of yours!"

"Hey, relax Len. Take it easy," Reed said quietly. "You're startin' to sound like my wife..."

"Well, she's right!" I said, with a loud laugh.

Now, Reed Burton is a good friend of mine and he's one of the very best anglers I know.

This guy can do more things with a jig than a Cape Breton fiddler. I've seen him pull walleye and smallmouth bass out of the most unlikely-looking places you can imagine, spots like the steep rock faces bordering the fast water of Burleigh Falls; or how about dangling while angling from the dam at Bobcaygeon... in the 2 a.m. blackness...

Now, you know that these are definitely not locations for the young or timid.

Yes, old Reed is quite the fisherman... and he knows it too. Oh, you'd better believe it!

The trout and salmon often don't stand a chance when Reed's on the prowl along the rocky, icy

shoreline of Port Credit in the winter and early spring. Like myself at these times of the year, he focuses a lot of attention on the "warm" water outflows from the Great Lakes' hydro plants, the nearest one being our old friend, the Lakeview Generating Station, home of the "Four Sisters."

"Versatility," Reed preaches. "Imagination. Flair. Like this new style..." and I'll just laugh and shake my head.

Seriously though, as Reed will gladly tell you, there will be days when those big browns, steelhead 'bows, and lakers won't be able to resist the hardware, lures like Little Cleo, Mepps spinners or small Rapala-style plugs.

"Dab a little ol' Dr. Juice or new fish-slime scent on these babies, and look out fish! Here we come! See you Saturday at 6 a.m.!" Reed will say with a twinkle in his eye.

"But remember, versatility. Don't be afraid to switch to salted minnows, bunched together on a small hook, resting on bottom. Tap... tap... pick up... fish on!"

Reed will really be rolling now. "Sometimes the best trick is suspended bait, slow and easy," he'll continue. "Floating roe bags were irresistible a couple of weeks ago. Don't be afraid to switch to the weirdo baits, like marshmallows..."

Yes, Reed and I have shared several fishing experiences and I respect the outdoor expertise he demonstrates. On more than one occasion he's plucked a fish right from under my nose, after I've done everything but strain the water in front of me.

"I saw what you were trying, and I thought this might work,

maybe with a little more flair," Reed will say with a smile, as he holds up a beautiful bass or trout.

And he'll have caught the fish with his home-made lure or jig and his self-produced fishing rod, and I'll just look back and laugh... teeth clenched ever so slightly...

Yep, I respect ol' Reed, so you can imagine my dismay that day when he showed up at the office sporting this new style of his...

At first, I thought it was some kind of mistake.

"Hey Reed," I said. "You got a piece of gum-wrapper hangin' from your left earlobe, buddy... hey... wait a minute..." and then I just roared in surprise, because that's when I realized that rugged ol' Reed, that great outdoorsman, that modern day Daniel Boone, had succumbed to, well, fashion... I guess... and flair, late twentieth century style.

An earring! A darned earring! A little jewel as sparkling as some of those jigs he tosses at the fish!

Now, Mr. Burton, I know that you're reading this, and you better believe that I've consulted all the experts. It is just fashion after all, and style, I suppose.

I don't necessarily agree with it, but lots of others do. Besides, it's

none of my old-fashioned business, really, and you go right ahead and do what you think is fit and fair, with style and flair.

Yeah, we can still go fishing, I guess...

But I'm warning you right now, that the moment I lose a fish in front of you, I'm crying foul, man...

"Glare! No fair! Glare! The sunlight, moon-beam, whatever, hit that darn earring, and almost blinded me, right when I needed to concentrate on that fish! No fair, man..."

Remember Reed: versatility... even in your excuses...

**SHORELINES:** Lots of people are still forgetting that you need a licence to fish in Ontario. Residents pay \$10 for the year, and that's a bargain for the great angling we enjoy. Where does the money go? Umm... That's somethin' we're trying to clarify...

**ON THE HORIZON:** A slightly different outdoor adventure. See you in two weeks.

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Bottle drive

Georgetown Sunny Acres Farms midget hockey players Gord Burke (left) and Paul St. Pierre were up to their knees in empty bottles last Saturday as the team completed a bottle drive to help raise funds for its upcoming trip to B.C. Team manager Wayne Pries said the team raised over \$900 on Saturday with the Beer Store and A and P taking in the empties. The club has so far raised over \$6,000 toward the \$8,000 needed for the trip. (Herald photo)

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