

The rod that wasn't meant to be



LOON TUNES and OUTDOOR NOTES by Len Landry

Zing... Tick. Splash. My brother Michael muttered and cursed to himself as he retrieved his lure after another misfire from the rocky shoreline. Poor ol' Mike was having trouble with his fishing equipment, and, in particular, with his closed-faced, spincast reel. Michael's a good fisherman too, so this was a little unusual. Oh, his casts would start out all right, the small Mepps spinner sailing through the evening air in the beginning of a fine arc... Zing... But then, the line would catch in an unseen knot inside the reel, and that fine arc would be suddenly interrupted as the Mepps was stopped in mid-air... Tick. And the lure would plummet to the sparkling water below, a sorry and sad ten or so feet from Miscalc Mike... Splash. Again and again it happened. Zing... Tick. Splash. Mike gradually grew more and more furious. Zing... tick... splash. I looked on, more than a little amused by the classical, colorful colloquialisms uttered by Muttering Mike. Zing... tick... splash. "What's the matter Mike?" I asked, feigning innocence, and failing to completely suppress my

laughter. "Got problems, Mike?" I queried again, chuckling. Brothers are like this you know. It's kind of like an unwritten 11th Commandment: "Thou shalt bug thy younger brother to annoyance whenever possible whilst angling for fish." Zing... tick... splash. "Hey Mike, maybe I can help out... Oops, you'll have to wait... got another fish here... You know they're bitin' pretty good tonight... uh... too bad you can't join in, Mike." Zing... tick... splash. Finally, Mike could stand no more. Now, what happened next was actually quite predictable because, of course Michael and I share the same last name. We have relatives who solve angling difficulties this way. In fact, one of our uncles was famous for littering the bottom of Balsam Lake with brand new gear that had the audacity to allow a fish to break free and escape. Yep, when in doubt, throw it out. So, while spewing a soliloquy of phrases frequently and fervently flavored with the sixth letter of the English alphabet, ol' Mike heaved the misbehaving, misfiring fishin' rod and reel into the pond... far as he could. No zing. No tick. Just a bigger splash this time. Silently, I watched and pinpointed where the luckless gear entered the water. Now, I knew this pond quite well, and luckily, it had a fairly smooth, muddy bottom and only about ten feet of water at this splashdown point. I had to concentrate now, and I would need a little luck too. I tied a big Daredevil lure onto my line and tossed it out just beyond the target spot. I let the big spoon settle to the bottom, and then began a very slow retrieve, hoping that the large treble hook would snag and rescue the now drowning pole. And you know, the tricky tactic

actually worked! Before long, I proudly presented Michael with his unfortunate but mischievous equipment. "Now Mike," I said smugly, "all you have to do was find the knot in your line, like so... See? There it is... Now just work the tangle out... Presto. Fixed. Now try it." Z-Z-Z-I-I-I-N-N-N-G-G-G. Splash. "See? Works perfectly, right Mike?" "Yeah... I guess so... Thanks... wise guy..." "Hey, that's okay Mike. What're brothers for, eh?" So now we went back to our fishing, and even landed a couple too... when the old act started up again... Zing... tick... splash. Curse. "Another knot eh Mike?" Curse. "Now Mike, just try untangling it like I showed you." Curse. Curse. Fortunately, just at this juncture, Mike's friend pulled up on the road alongside our shoreline. "How's the fishin' Mike?" the friend asked. "Aw, I'm goin' Len," Mike said with a sigh, and he proceeded to place his gear in the friend's car. "You don't mind if I leave ya..." "Heck no Mike. I'm used to fishin' alone. Go relax. Just don't throw any more equipment into the lake, okay? Hey, I might not be here next time..." I said, tongue in cheek. Mike nodded, smiled, and shut the car door... Snap! Yep, you guessed it. The unfortunate rod had not been placed completely inside the car, and now it had paid the costly and ultimate consequences. Michael sadly held up the pieces of the irreparably broken pole, and now his cussing was colored with headshaking and laughter from all of us. That rod just wasn't meant to be, I guess. It's a true story, too, just like all the others... Honest Injun. Heck, do you think I could ever make up something as crazy as that...? SHORELINES: Plan now to attend G.E.M. (the Great Environmental Merger), a conference on important issues affecting all of us. It's June 10-11 at the old Riviera Club in Norval. Look for details elsewhere in this paper. ON THE HORIZON: The local fishing scene. See you in two weeks.



Former Canadian Olympic cyclist Jocelyn Lovell is flanked by Jim Stoneham (right) and John Killick at the conclusion of the third annual ride for Spinal Cord Research in Acton Saturday. A group of more than 20 area cyclists raised \$3,500 for the charity. (Herald photo)

Rallying for research

For the third year in a row a group of local cyclists have used their muscle to raise funds for Spinal Cord Research. Jim Stoneham, of Acton, and over 20 local riders took to the roads of Halton Hills on May 27 pedalling to raise about \$3,500 through sponsors. The cyclists earned more than double the

amount of funds they raised in 1988 when they rode for \$1,400. Former Canadian Olympic cyclist Jocelyn Lovell, paralyzed years ago in a cycling mishap, was on hand Saturday to officially start the ride. Stoneham said the hopes to involve local cycling clubs in next year's ride.

Herald Scoreboard

GEORGETOWN YOUTH SOCCER CLUB
MAJOR SQUIRT BOYS
Orange Cheestaks 2
Goals: Jordan Stapleton.
Red Wings 3
Goals: Eric Broughton, Derek Rocca, Jason Gadoutais.
Green Cobras vs Purple Mustangs
Due to weather the Purple Mustangs cancelled game.
Coach Jack Bakker and manager Mike Wright of Green Cobras split the team up and had a practice game. Fun was had by all.

1989 I.C.R.S.L. STANDINGS

DIVISION	P	W	T	L	F	A	PTS.
DIVISION 1							
Eag.	2	2	0	0	6	2	4
Martin Travel	2	2	0	0	5	2	4
Meteor S.C.	2	1	0	1	7	3	2
Crown and Anchor	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Ancient Mariners	1	0	0	1	1	6	0
Acton Villa	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
DIVISION 2							
United	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Ajax	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Milton F.C.	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Laurentians	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Tam O'Shanter	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Singers	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
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