

"Midnight fishing" or "How my wife married a nut"



LONN TUNES and OUTDOOR NOTES
by Len Landry

"It's too late," my wife Rita said, in a matter-of-fact manner. "No, it isn't," I objected. "It's too late and it'll be too dark to go fishing," she continued. "Fish bite better in the dark," I answered. "Besides, you're too tired, Len. You've been out back cutting the field and the lawn all day... Lord knows why it takes you so long... you always move so slowly... but you haven't had much rest, and now you want to fish all night!" Rita exclaimed. "The only reason I worked so hard on the yard was because I knew I was goin' fishin'... and I'm goin' fishin'! Uh... okay?" "Where are you going at this hour? It's after ten o'clock," Rita said with a sigh. "Uhh... Stony Lake," I mumbled. "What? What did you say? Did I hear right? Did you say Stony Lake?"

"Yep," I nodded. "And I'll be back in the morning." "That's ridiculous! It's too far..." "Three hours to get there... three hours back... five hours of prime fishin' in between... I figure I'll be home at about ten in the morning, with a cooler full of fish. The kids will hardly know I was gone..." "Besides... in any case... you're getting a cold," Rita diagnosed. "Fresh air will be good for me." "You're nuts, you know Len..." "Oh, I know, I know..." I smiled. "I don't like this idea at all. I don't like it one bit..." "Neither will the fish!" I chuckled confidently. "I feel very, very lucky tonight... those poor critters. Yep, one case full of fish comin' right up!" "Is anybody going with you?" Rita inquired. "Now Rita, do you think anybody else is crazy enough to come along on this trip?" "Be careful. Please be careful. You're not going out in a boat, are you?" "No way!" I said. "Don't need a boat. I'll be fishing right from the public dock next to the marina. It'll be lit up enough for me to see what I'm doin'... so don't worry..." and I was off. Six hours of driving? To fish from a dock? In the middle of the night? Well, before you start signalling

for the white jacket and certification papers, please consider the following facts: John Minny finally has me convinced that the solunar tables really do work! You can get a version of these valuable stats in the magazines "Outdoors Canada" and "In Fisherman." The solunar tables had indicated that this night and early morning was to be the finest fishing time of about a two-week period. Although a full moon situation is ideal, the new moon phase which existed on this night was almost as good. The tables further suggested that midnight to 2 a.m. would be fantastic fishing hours, followed by a slow period of a few hours, with activity picking up again, around six in the morning. In addition, we had experienced a few scorching days, and now the barometer was falling, a perfect fishing condition. Thunderstorms were predicted, but they'd be later in the day, long after I'd be finished fishing. Remember that the prime quarry was smallmouth bass, and experienced anglers know how these bronze battlers love to invade the shallows and the areas

around boat moorings and docks at night. Equipment should be kept simple. Hook and worm, or leech, at the end of your most familiar, easy handling gear will do the trick. Remember a flashlight, lots of anti-bug juice, and a little radio to keep you company. Did the system work? You bet it did, as my cooler showed four chunky smallmouth, one largemouth bass, a couple of bonus walleye, and a batch of panfish, and this didn't take into account the numerous beautiful smallmouth bass I released. So thanks for not laughing, Pat Laing and Charmaine Gibbons, when I told you at work... that night of my plans to go fishing. Six hours of driving for five hours of fishing

is a trade I'd make any day. The total trip was under twenty dollars (for gas and bait).

"Bassin' on a budget" I call it. The only thing was I lost my voice for a few days afterward. Darn allergies, probably... must have been from cuttin' all that lawn... right Rita? Uhh... Rita?...

ON THE HORIZON: Back to Balsam Lake. See you in two weeks.

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Spirited "Robbies" give all at tourney

A spirited team of nine-year-olds had the honor of representing Georgetown at the internationally famous "Robbie" Soccer Tournament on July 3 in Toronto. The team, consisting of Andrew Boyce, Ian Cartwright, Bryan Foster, Chris Hall, Robert LaRose, Dylan Lee, Greg McCullough, Ben Redman and Andrew Wright, was drawn from the Minor Atom House League teams and coached by Steven Lee. While the "Robbie" is in its 23rd year of operation, and draws youth teams from around the world (this year out of the 180-plus teams, 34 came from the U.S.A. and others from England, Scotland, and Taiwan), this was only the second year of the swiftly growing Mini-Soccer Festival. The Georgetown squad was one of 45 teams of seven/eight and nine-year-old boys and girls drawn primarily from the Ajax-Pickering-Scarborough area. Mini-Soccer is a scaled-down version of regulation soccer, played on a smaller field with smaller nets, a smaller ball, simplified rules and (in this tournament) only six players on the field from each team. The Festival is intended to promote fair play and enjoyment, and as such each team plays three games but no standings are maintained - every team is a winner. The Georgetown team played very well, and while losing each

game by one goal (scores of 2-1, 3-2, and 3-2), were very competitive and the game results could easily have been reversed. Robert LaRose (2), Greg McCullough (2) and Dylan Lee were the goal scorers, fed repeatedly by the hard-working Andrew Boyce and Andrew Wright. Ian Cartwright played strongly both in net and on the field. Bryan Foster and Ben Redman were solid defenders, repeatedly stopping the attacks of strong Pickering and Woburn squads. Finally Chris Hall was spectacular while in net, and reliable when playing defence. The boys enjoyed the games, the beautiful Robbie crests, the tournament shirts, the CSA Skills Testing Program, and the free pizza and Kool-aid. Thanks are due to Kelly Herbert and Georgetown Soccer Club for organizing the team, John Parkyn and Scarborough Soccer Association for running a terrific Festival, and the parents of the team-members for their "cheerful" support.

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