

Cousin lend me a line

It was time. I hated to admit it, but I realized what had to be done... again. Picking up my small address and phone number diary, I heaved a deep sigh of resignation.

"Let's see now... Landry, A.A.... Landry... Raymond Landry... ah, here it is, Rec Landry," I muttered. "I hate doin' this."

I dialed the number. It rang precisely three times.

"Good morning! Rec Landry here. 'Wreck a record' and we'll write about it! What can I do for ya?"

"Hello... uh, Rec? Cousin Len here, from Speyside... you know. Um, how are things in Buffalo?" "Oh... yeah... Well, hi, cousin. Got somethin' for me?" Rec drawled in fine, fashionable (but a little frigid) Buffalonian.

"Yep, you bet. You ain't gonna believe this one Rec!" I said enthusiastically, trying to warm up the conversation. You see, I knew Rec was still mad at me from the autumn of 1988.

"Well, I didn't believe the last one, ya know," Rec said. "The one about Ken O'Brien's Canadian champion muskie. You couldn't handle that one, either Len. Remember? Sixty-five pounds, caught by a bass fisherman, on a tiny lure... Hey, who don't you just admit that you can't stand writin' about other people's records? And, by the way..."

"Here it comes," I thought, wincing.

"Why the heck didn't I get some credit for helpin' you with that darn article anyway?" Rec inquired. "Didn't anyone notice the superior writing style? Didn't you get any fan letters?"

"No," I answered softly. "No, I didn't... But, I need your help again. This one's really wild..."

"Okay, okay," Rec agreed, "but only because I feel a little sorry for you, Len. After all, the paper forgot your picture and loon symbol last week. Hey, maybe they're tryin' to give you a hint... squeeze you out, ya know...? I have to say, it looked good on ya..."

"The Herald looked better without my ugly mug in there," I reasoned. "Anyway, I called about the new Ontario brown trout record. You see, Rec, there's this lady..." "Lady!" You mean it? Lady... as in girl...?" Rec asked, incredulously.

"Heck yes, Rec. They can fish too, ya know. I'm always getting outfished by ladies and little girls, like our daughter Sullavan..."

"And little girl dogs too," Rec added, twisting the knife just a little. "I saw the article about you and John Minns and his pet, Grady." "All right, Rec. You've had your fun. Seriously, though, Pam Harvey is the lady's name," I continued.

"She's 43 years old, from Mississauga. She'd only been fishin' once before in her lifetime, 35 years ago... didn't catch anything that time. So, she decides



LOON TUNES and OUTDOOR NOTES by Len Landry

to take a break from her finance company branch manager job... charter a boat in the Star Salmon Hunt with some friends, and goes fishin' along the Oakville shoreline... nothin' too serious, you understand, Rec?"

"I understand," Rec said quietly. "Anyway, she ties on a Northern King 28 blue and silver spoon... I can't stand this, Rec; these are the colors I always use too..." I stammered, trying to collect myself. "So, Pam is trolling this spoon down 25 feet in over a hundred foot depths off Bronte. She gets a hit, a big hit, and eventually lands... are you ready for this, Rec?"

"Uh huh. Yep," Rec affirmed. "A 25.68 pound brown trout! Over three feet long and a two foot girth! Her first fish! Worth all sorts of prizes! Only her second time fishing! A new Ontario record! I'm quittin' this game... I can't stand it anymore. And I refuse to write about it... I'm just too jealous, I guess, Rec."

"Well," Rec replied, "I'm afraid I can't help ya after all, cousin. Not on this one..." "What!" I cried. "You see, in Buffalo here, we pride ourselves on our factual articles. We can't peddle make-believe stories here."

"But..." "No but's," Rec continued. "Call me back if you get somethin' that really happened. Have a good fall, and keep cheerin' for those Buffalo Bills..."

CLICK. ON THE HORIZON: The boys and their toys. See you in two weeks.

Pool closures

Both the Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools will be closed for annual maintenance and repairs. Acton Indoor Pool, Sept. 2-10; Georgetown Indoor Pool, Aug. 28 - Sept. 10.

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Hardy Northerners

New Acton Tait Realty Sabres owner, Mitch Lajeunesse, is proud of his Northern Ontario roots and his contacts. Lajeunesse, who grew up in Kapuskasing is hoping these Northern Ontario pucksters will add an extra element to his Mid-Ontario Junior "C" hockey team. From left, Mitch Lajeunesse, Bob Gagnon, from Mattice; Eric Gagnon (Bob's cousin; from Hearst; Claude Gegin (6'4", 260 lbs.) from Hearst and Eric Lord, from Hearst. (Herald photo)

Tara McGaw wins gold

By COLIN GIBSON
Herald Sports Editor

Georgetown resident, Kara McGaw, is rapidly running out of softball worlds to conquer.

Sunday, the 23-year-old and her Chinguacousy Diamonds teammates, won the Canadian senior women's softball championship with a 2-1 win over Calahoo-Edmonton Erins.

McGaw, who sparkled throughout tournament play, scored her team's first run in the championship victory. By virtue of her stellar play throughout the week-long tournament, she was named to the tournament's all-star team as the All-Canadian rightfielder.

The road to the Canadian championship was by no means a smooth one.

The Chinguacousy Diamonds finished first in their pool with a 6-1 record, the lone loss came at the hands of the team from British Columbia.

The double-elimination format then went into effect for those

teams who qualified to enter the finals.

Friday night Chinguacousy eked out a 2-1 win over Ontario representative, Cambridge, with McGaw scoring her squad's first run.

Saturday saw the Diamonds meet their pool-play nemesis, British Columbia and in a 10 inning thriller, Chinguacousy won, 2-1, with McGaw scoring the winning run.

Sunday was nail-biting time as Chinguacousy faced the defending Canadian senior women's champion, Calahoo-Edmonton Erins.

The Alberta team had to win twice and set up the fitting tournament finale by defeating Chinguacousy 2-1 in the first game.

Chinguacousy's 2-1 win in the second game brought the senior women's championship back to Ontario.

The Gold medal win for McGaw at the Canadian senior women's softball championship represents a hat-trick in terms of national competition.

She was a member of Canadian championship teams with Pickering midgets and juniors.

McGaw, who played on the Western Illinois University softball team in National Collegiate Athletics Association competition, works in the Ontario Promotions department for Molson's Breweries.

She is also hoping to add to her softball medal collection.

Chinguacousy Diamonds will travel to Vancouver next year to defend the national crown won on Sunday.

First and foremost, however, is the chance to represent Canada in international competition.

This summer, McGaw attended a national senior ladies camp in Waterloo, the purpose of which was to audition players for the Canadian team which will represent Canada in next summer's Pan American games.

She will find out in October if her efforts at the Waterloo camp will allow her to test the waters of international competition.

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