

Ice fishing for walleye on Lake Scugog no treat

Last week a couple of friends, whom I had previously worked with while at the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters main office, invited me out ice fishing on Lake Scugog.

I was a little hesitant at first, spending my day off looking down a dark hole in the ice, toes and fingers turning numb from the cold. But both Chris and Bill ensured me that fishing for winter walleye on Scugog would be anything but boring!

Early Wednesday morning, dressed to the hilt with bulky winter apparel, I waddled onto the frozen lake and tip-toed the full 30 yards out on the ice. We eagerly drilled a number of holes, scooped them clear, baited hooks with shiners, and lowered our lines six inches off the bottom.

Minutes had passed when Bill yelled out, "here's the first catch of the day boys," and pulled a three inch perch out from the 12 inch diameter hole - a bad omen for any avid ice fisherman.

Two hours had passed and the small perch remained to be the first and only catch of the day. The only thing biting was the bitter northern wind whipping across the lake. With temperatures continuing to drop Bill exclaimed, "well boys, drastic times calls for drastic mea-



Nature's Way

By KEVIN CALLAN

asures," and from his day pack he pulled out an array of miniature liquor bottles and served us all Irish coffee.

Another hour had passed. Freezing rain began to fall, fogging up my glasses and leaving me totally blind. The fish still were not co-operating, and bottles of baileys lay empty in the snow.

Bill kept busy building a snowman to help watch his line. Chris teased my lack of sight by having me run from hole to hole on false alarms. It wasn't until 4 p.m. when Chris no longer cried wolf, and our luck started to change for the better.

In an hour we had caught five fish. Chris pulled up two, Bill two as well, one being over three pounds. And even I caught a decent size walleye.

Six hours on Scugog, fighting bitter cold, heavy winds, and ice pellets gave us five tasty winter walleye and countless coffee breaks - not bad for looking down a dark hole in the ice all day!



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Aesthetically and culturally we enjoy plants. They create an enjoyable element in the home and yard. But we sometimes forget how potentially harmful some plants can be. Their toxicity can range from a mild skin irritant to extremely poisonous. However, keep in mind that plants are not toxic to humans in the same manner. Practically every group of plants produces toxicity in a different way. For example, the Dieffenbachia, a common houseplant, contains a sap that will cause the tongue to thicken and swell if it touches your lips or mouth. This can at the least make speech difficult. Whereas mushrooms that contain amatoxins (Amanita mushrooms) are extremely poisonous. They predominantly affect the liver and can cause death within 2 days. And one that many of us are familiar with is Poison Ivy or Poison Oak. Contact with any of their plant parts results in an incredible skin irritation. Plants use these poisonous or toxic substances as a defense mechanism. The presence of these is an effective method to prevent insects and animals from eating the plant. It is interesting to note that most of these toxic substances found in plants are secondary compounds. In other words, they are not essential to the normal functioning of the plant, but compounds produced as waste by the plant and then stored within the plant. Plants that contain toxic or poisonous substances demand respect. The following is a list of some common poisonous plants: Poinsettia and other members of the Euphorbia family (sap), Yew (seeds), Rhubarb (leaves), Wisteria (seeds), Amaryllis (bulb), Tulip (bulb), Hyacinth (bulb), Castor Bean (seeds & leaves), Foxglove (leaves) and Bleeding Heart (Foliage, roots).

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