

Life under winter skies

Dave's Diversions

By David Featherstone

To me, the early fall months have always represented a rich pageantry of nature's bounty, on display for all to see. However, as autumn fades into winter, the colors fade and the days grow shorter. The bounty of the harvest is all but forgotten.

Winter is often referred to as "the little death", a time when natural life processes are at their lowest ebb. Nature appears to be husbanding its resources, awaiting the return of spring before returning to its full potential. However, under the winter sky, the vitality of life for many species continues unabated.

In the headwaters of our local streams, brook trout and brown trout embryos are developing under gravel-strewn springs and riffles. Embryos that survive the winter ice and late winter floods will emerge from their riverbed shelters in the spring.

Throughout the Great Lakes, legions of rainbow trout are assembling off the mouths of their natal tributaries. Here, they will gather their strength, waiting for the warm freshets of late winter and early spring before dashing upstream to spawn.

Within our local forests, white-tailed deer gather in "yards" to browse on the buds and twigs of shrubs and trees. The fawns of next spring are quickly developing within pregnant does. Unless the winter is unusually harsh, most fawns will come into the world in excellent condition.

To the north, female black bears give birth to their cubs in January and February. While the mother sleeps in the den, her tiny, hairless offspring nestle into her fur for shelter and feeding. Black bear cubs emerge from their den in the spring fully developed. With their mother's help they are ready to take

on the outside world.

Although many wonderful life processes continue to operate throughout the winter months, one fact cannot be ignored.

The winter months represent a critical period for our wildlife. Resources are scarce and climactic conditions are demanding. However, a strong undercurrent of new life is swelling in our streams and forests, awaiting the cues of

spring to come forth into abundance.

A biologist by profession, David Featherstone devotes a large portion of his spare time to volunteer groups which are working to protect and enhance the environment. David hopes to provide readers of Halton Hills This Week with a mix of interesting and informative outdoor and nature articles.

Atoms strong contenders in Newmarket

M&M Sports Minor Atoms proved to be strong contenders at the Newmarket Minor Atom tournament this past weekend.

The fans saw great hockey as these little Raiders come away with one win, a loss and a tie in the final game.

In their first game Friday night against East Williamsburg, the Minor Atoms came out on top. Peter Veltman scored the only goal in the first period, assisted by Todd Kerwin. Georgetown kept the lead in the second with Peter Veltman marking his second goal at the game from Riley McAnaney and Mike Noonon.

Ryan Inglis scored with only eight seconds remaining in the period assisted by Sean McArthur and Jamie Reynolds. Peter Veltman earned a hat trick in the third from Riley McAnaney, making it a 4-1

final for Georgetown.

Georgetown faced a tough Owen Sound team in their first game on Saturday. The Minor Atoms lead at the end of the first period with two goals from Chase Trull, assisted by Ryan Inglis and Andre Lefebvre. Georgetown held on to a slim lead in the second when Jamie Reynolds scored unassisted, making it 3-2.

The Owen Sound team came on strong in the third to defeat the Minor Atoms 5-3.

In their final game, Georgetown took on the Newmarket home team and came away with a 2-2 tie. It proved to be a very exciting match.

The Minor Atoms had to come from behind as Sean McArthur scored from Peter Veltman. Veltman earned the tying goal assisted by Mike Noonon and Riley McAnaney.

A great effort by all team members and excellent goal tending by Stephen Paulin and Simon Deeley.


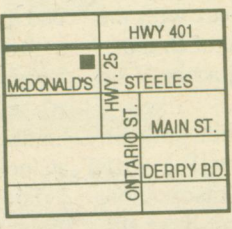
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Tooth Chatter
by ALEX TRENTON, Denture therapist

"I WISH I'D LOOKED AFTER MY TEETH"

Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth,
And spotted the perils beneath,
All the toffees I chewed,
And the sweet sticky food,
Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth,
I wish I'd been that much more willin'
When I had more tooth there than fillin'
To pass up gobstoppers,
From respect to me choppers
And to buy something else with me shillin'.
When I think of the lollies I licked,
And the licorice allsorts I picked,
Sherbet dabs, big and little
All that hard peanut brittle,
My conscience gets horribly pricked.
Me Mother, she told me no end,
"If you got a tooth, you got a friend"
I was young then, and careless,
My toothbrush was hairless,
I never had much time to spend.
Oh, I showed them the toothpaste all right,
I flashed it about late at night,
But up-and-down brushin',
And pokin' and fussin'
Didn't seem worth the time--I could bite!
If I'd known I was paving the way,
To cavities, caps and decay,
The murder of fillins'
Injections and drillins'
I'd have thrown all me sherbet away.
So I lay in the old dentist's chair,
And I gaze up his nose in despair,
And his drill it do whine,
In these molars of mine,
"Two amalgam," he'll say, "for in there."
How I laughed at my Mother's false teeth,
As they foamed in the waters beneath,
But now comes the reckonin'
It's me they are beckonin'
Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth!

AUTHOR, UNKNOWN

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your dentures, contact our office.

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