

Started in 1947, still growing

Role of sportsmen's association keeps changing with the times

By Bob Burt
The Halton Sportsmen's Association has undergone vast and numerous changes since Ed McKim chaired the first meeting of the club held at the I.O.O.F. Hall in Milton one night way back on May 15, 1947.

In its origin the club was formed to bring hunters and fishermen together to share their common interests. While the club no doubt undertook projects that would aid conservation it would be a minor role in the club then, as compared to the major contribution the current club is making.

At that first meeting Ed McKim was elected president and Dr. B. D. Young and Ken Holdsworth vice-presidents. W. G. Crozier was treasurer and H. C. Morris secretary.

The executive body included A. H. Tufford, Charles Burns, Houston Lush, W. Rawlins, William Randell, Alf Bridgen, F. B. Bray, Wilbur Kerns, Nelson Robinson, George Morley, John Kennedy, Dewitt Galloway, Martyn Heslop, William Watkins and Russell Robertson.

The club held meetings in vacant halls and wherever they could find room. While the popularity of the club boomed the operation became unwieldy and after only a couple of years interest dwindled and the club folded in 1953.

In 1957 conservation officer Robert Reid and a handful of dedicated sportsmen rallied interest and set the club back in operation again.

Eddie Adamson was named president of the re-organized venture and headed a group that included Glen Saunders, Jack Elliott, Percy Hall, Austin Tufford, Art Charlton, Wilf Penson and Jack Clayson.

Since then the club has continued to serve social and sporting needs for its members as well as benefiting the community and to some extent the province with its far-reaching projects.

Join provincial body
In November of 1957 the local group became a member club of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Two years ago Paul Coulson of Lowville emerged as president of Zone Six of the Ontario Federation. Perhaps one of the most active men in the ranks of hunters and fishermen, Coulson holds a number of titles.

As well as being an executive on his own club, he is president of the Halton Environmental Association, Past President of the Ontario Federation, and local chairman of the hunter safety training course operated under

the jurisdiction of the Department of Lands and Forests. Zone six includes Halton, Peel, Wentworth, Wellington, Waterloo and Brant counties.

Acquire land
Probably one of the greatest milestones in the history of the club came to pass in 1963 when the club acquired 19 acres of land for a clubhouse and a site for many of their activities.

Built entirely with volunteer labor, the clubhouse was erected

further the cause of conservation and at the same time work to improve the lot of the fisherman and hunter.

Kelso Lake was first stocked with trout by the club in co-operation with the Department of Lands and Forests. Hundreds of youngsters who line the shore of the pond in Milton's Centennial Park owe their hours of enjoyment to the fish stocking efforts of club members. At the present time the stocking

programs the club undertakes with the department are headed by a very active fishing chairman Jim Smith.

Urge strict laws
The sportsmen in Halton are perhaps the only group in the county urging stronger fines be imposed to members of their own ranks who violate laws set to govern the behavior of hunters and fishermen.

For years now the hunters have lobbied for stiffer fines under the

fish and game act and the petty trespass act. Fines, under the petty trespass act particularly, are nominal and do not provide a strong deterrent.

In many of their projects the Halton association works hand in hand with the Department of Lands and Forests.

Habitat improvement is one such project. In the past the group has worked with the department setting up brush piles, snow fences and providing a natural habitat for wild game.

Members of the club take part in stream improvement as well. A group will travel a stream, see if stocking is feasible and what improvements are preferable, chart how the stream is fed and other pertinent data and finally make a recommendation to the Department of Lands and Forests.

In an interview Arn Coulson, a long time enthusiast and one of the most dedicated club members, told this reporter the club had offered their services for creek clean-up to the Halton Region Conservation Authority but the offer had never been taken up.

While their service in that

matter has never been accepted, the club does organize an annual fishing derby at Kelso for the Conservation Authority.

Probably the key to pollution, bad hunting and fishing habits and a host of society's ailments is educating the public. This is among the most important tasks the club takes on.

One way in which it achieves this aim is by holding hunter safety courses in conjunction with the Department of Lands and Forests. Stan Price and Jack Coulter of Campbellville and Dan Kidd of Rockwood are among the instructors of the hunter courses. Paul Coulson co-ordinates the courses locally.

Courses consist of four one-hour meetings and when the students are well versed in fundamentals and safety, they try their tests under the supervision of the Department. Since the tests were initiated hunting accidents have plunged downward by 70 per cent.

Percy Hall, Arn Coulson, Ed Adamson and Bill Bailey were among the first instructors of the course.



PAUL AND DEL Coulson, seated, and Glen Melling and Jim McLean, standing, talk about the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to be held at the club this weekend. — (Staff Photo)

in 1964. Even now the club is continually improving the building and the grounds. The last few months have brought a noticeable improvement to the clubhouse and grounds as members stepped up their pace in order to ready the area for the Zone Six convention planned for this weekend.

Arn Coulson, Percy Hall and John Readhead were on a committee that chose the land for the club on Steeles Ave. about three miles west of Milton.

Hunters come from miles around to take part in the annual trap shoot and compete for the Robertson and Coulson Trophy first started in 1960.

Great function
In recent years conservation has grown to be one of the greatest functions of the club. They work in many ways to

First time

Halton sportsmen host conference

Halton Sportsmen's Association clubhouse will be a beehive of activity this weekend when hunters and fishermen from six counties file into the clubhouse for the annual zone meeting of the Zone Six group, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

A crowd of over 100 is expected to attend including wives and family members. This is the first year the Halton club will host the event. Delegates from clubs in Halton, Peel, Wentworth, Wellington, Waterloo and Brant counties will attend the convention.

While the agenda makes allowances for a lot of fun and festivities, the business sessions will take up a good portion of the time.

Come Friday
Delegates are expected to roll in Friday night and take part in a concert, sing song and get to know each other.

Saturday morning the agenda calls for horse shoes, trap shooting and some more energetic sports with the business meeting being called at 1 p.m.

Reports will be heard on regular business as well as resolutions, game reports from the department and a pesticide and pollution report from Jim Melling.

Etherington was in the news last spring when he started a chain reaction of opposition to certain sports on the Halton county to be held on the roadside.

Drinking water will be followed by sports and then an old fashioned dance at the hall

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With the coming of a Women's Auxiliary in 1969 the club took on a new sophisticated look. The ladies are for the better part wives of members and are kept busy preparing meals for special occasions and outfitting the kitchen. While the women are a welcome addition to the club, Saturday remains stag day and women aren't allowed. For one day at least, the club serves as a sanctuary of sorts for the male members.

16th litter container

Looking for a handyman to do work around your house or farm? Try a Champion classified. Last week an advertiser placed a six-word ad seeking a handyman for farm work, and received about 15 inquiries from the ad. Champion classifieds are a great place to find all kinds of help—try a small ad today and see how well it works.

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