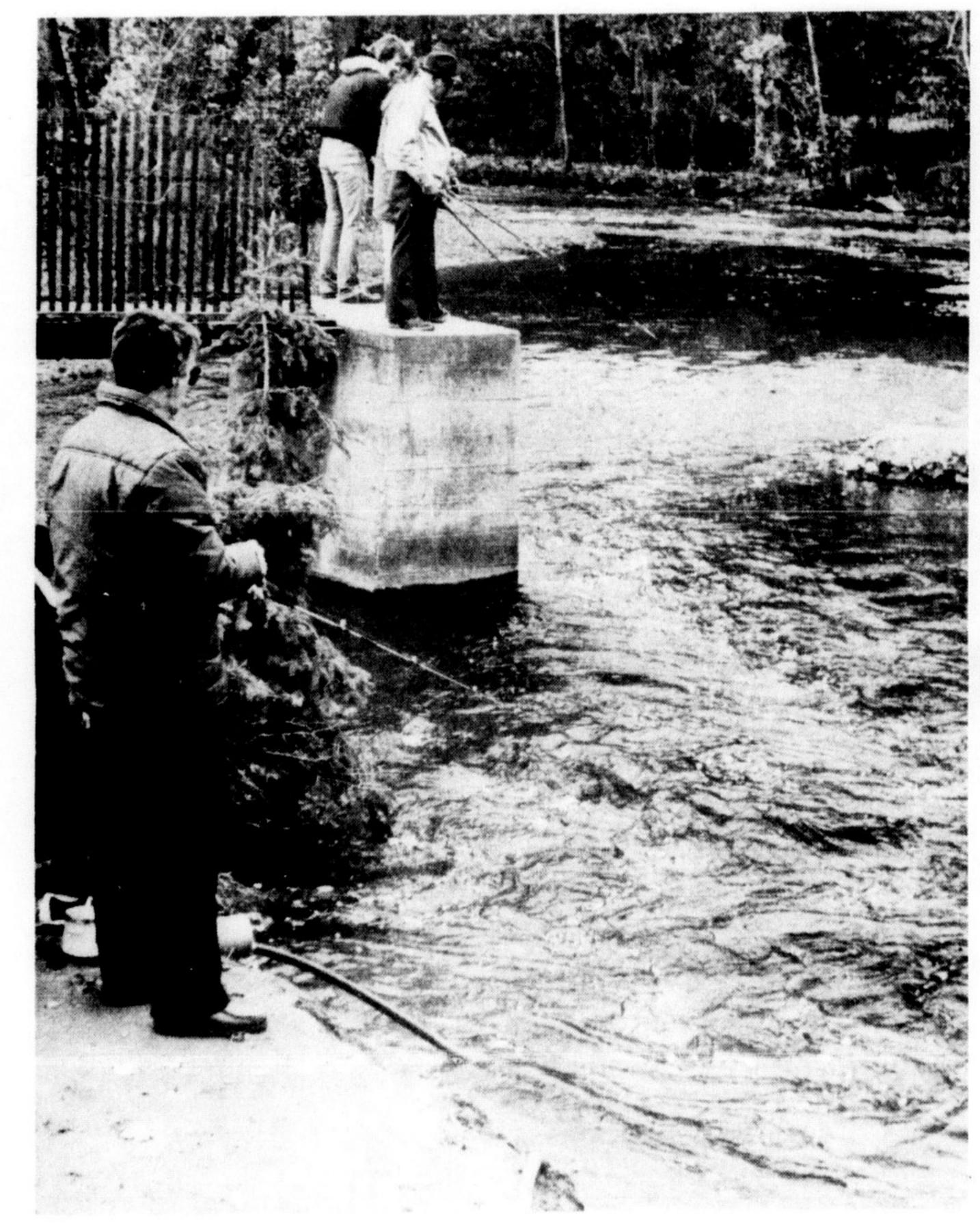
AFTER TWO HOURS of fishing this quartet of fishermen from Guelph landed a pair of Chinook salmon. The men were

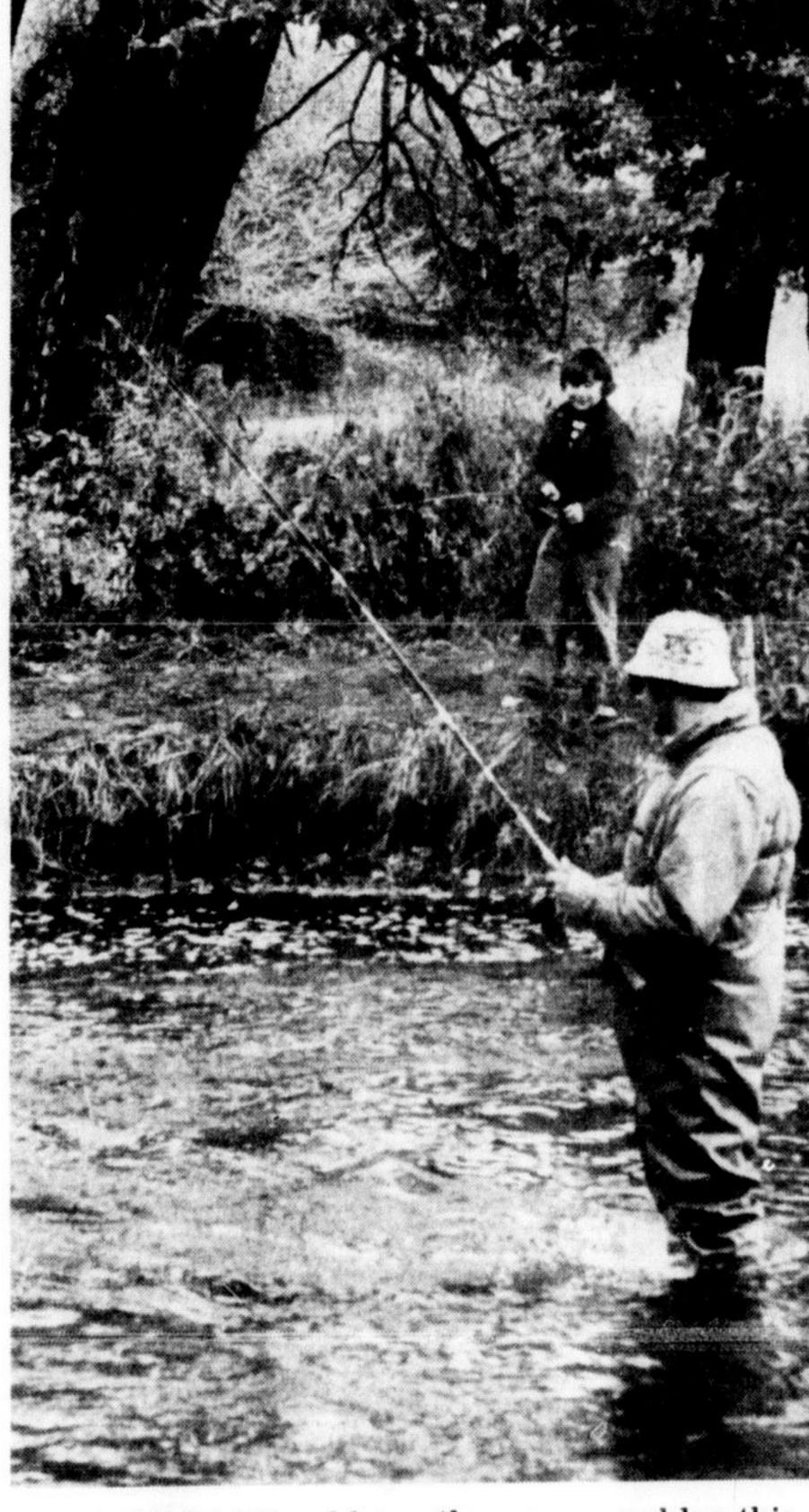
fishing in 12-Mile-Creek where it runs through Lowville Park.



SEEING SALMON in the creek attracted fishermen to this point on 12-Mile-Creek in Lowville Park. Bits of sponge and worms were the bait used, but the fish ignored both.

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WATERPROOF cold-weather gear enables this man to get in the creek with the fish. Anglers have been turning out in droves, lured by the prospect of catching a salmon.

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Salmon hooked on spawning run

By Olga Darcovich

They knew the fish were there. They could see them, lounging in a four-foot hole in the clear waters of 12-Mile-Creek where it flows through Lowville Park. But the fish weren't giving their lines a nibble and, after a time, the two fishermen moved a few yards downstream.

In the shallows a salmon darted by quickly, as if it patiently lining the banks of

the creek. The people were out for the annual fall salmon run up 12ile- Creek to Lowville, where the fish are stoppped by a private dam. The fisherfolk - men, a few women, a lot of kids - came from Hamilton and Guelph as well as from local communities.

Although all were hopeful of luring one of the big Chinook or Coho with bits of yellow sponge or with worms, they were less certain about what they'd do with the fish if they caught one. The big fish have spent a few years in the volluted waters of Lake

Some thought they'd freeze the fish, eating only an occasional meal, while others thought to solve the problem by giving the fish to friends. One man claimed the concern about pollution was nonsense and vowed he'd eat the fish if he caught one. Another was fishing for a trophy to stuff and mount

Trevor Kellar, a biologist with the Ministry of Natural said the fish were safe to eat in moderation. Safety guidelines are determined according to the size of the fish and more precise information is available from the Ministry.

The salmon run started this year in early September. Salmon return to their

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breeding ground to spawn. now. A Pacific species of It's believed they use their salmon, they die in the creek sense of smell to identify the after spawning — if they water of their creek, Mr. aren't caught first.

Kellar said. end of September, the biolo- drop in the number

The creek was heavily The Chinook, the most pre- fished in the latter half of valent species in the creek, September. A few salmon can be found up to January, but (produce ripe eggs) by the Mr. Kellar anticipates a rapid gist said. They spawn where Chinook by the end of they find suitable gravel beds October. The run of Coho may and have finished spawning continue for some time, autumn

depending on conditions such as water flow and air temperature. Salmon fishing is permitted in the creek all year round, he said.

Natural reproduction is low in 12-Mile-Creek, Mr. Kellar said. Consequently, the Ministry collects 500,000 eggs and takes them to hatcheries in Wiarton. The creek is then estocked with the hatched

As the salmon grow, they myve into the deeper water of the lake. The Coho return to spawn when they are three years old and the Chinook when they are four. Cool water and increased flow are the stimuli which cause the fish to move in from the lake and up the creek in the





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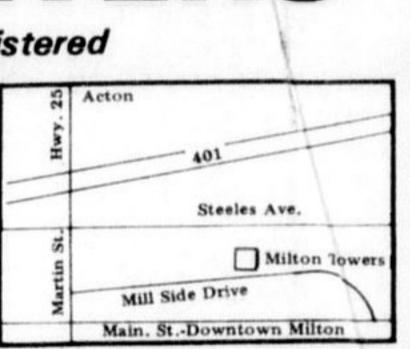
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