

Between the Willows

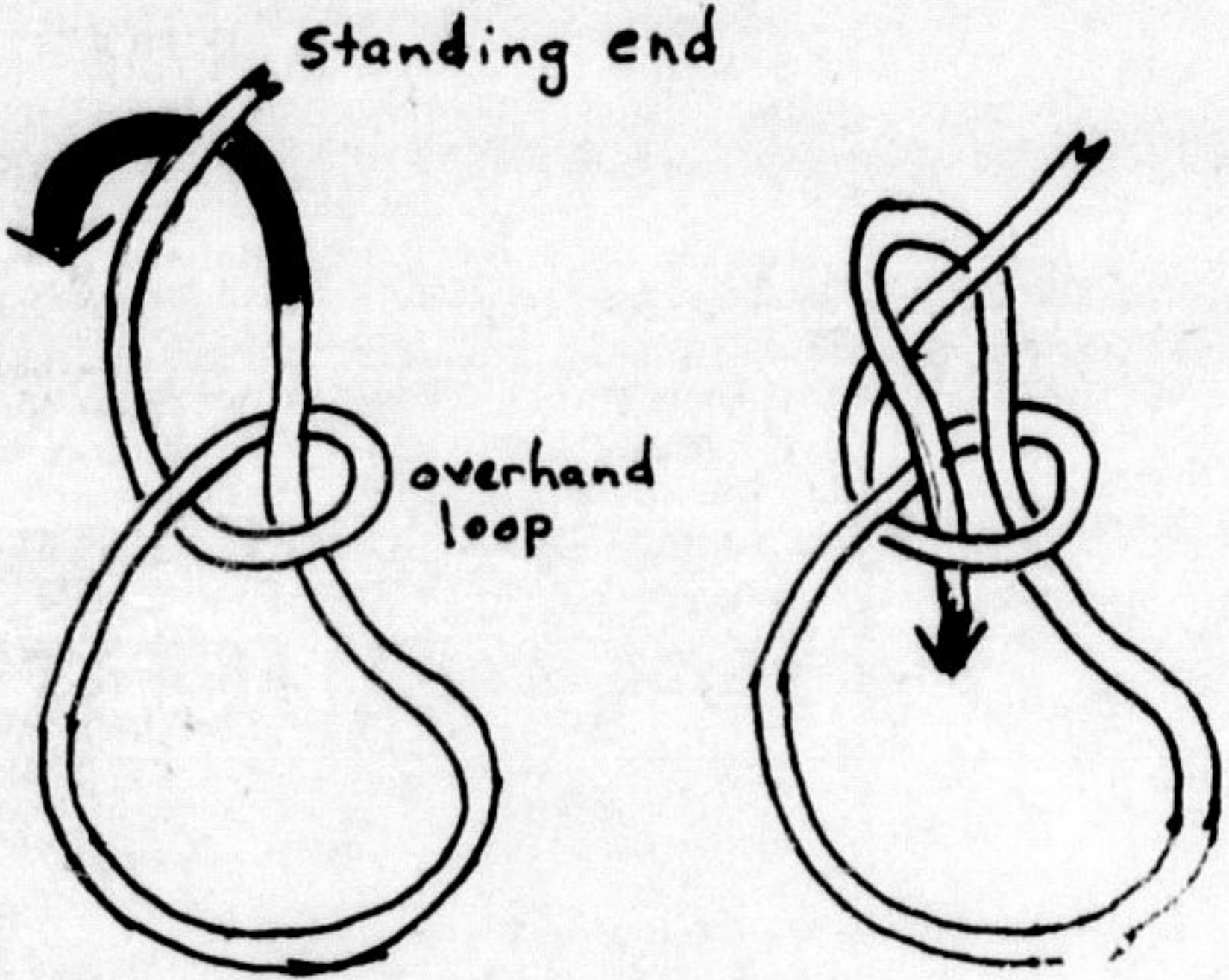
So pigeons are a problem

By Don Byers
I have been following with mixed feelings the controversy in town this summer over the pigeon problem. In many of the world's most major cities these birds number in the tens of thousands. Think of the countless photos you have seen of people feeding them in the squares and parks. And if they just sat around and "cooed", or whatever pigeons do, I guess co-existence wouldn't be all that hard to handle. But we all know what a hell of a mess they can make of a building, once they've taken over. I'm not about to promote either side of the issue. But if you think pigeons are a problem, let me remind you of what

Around the campfire

Camping hints

By Rocco Losole
The bowline forms a non-slip loop that won't loosen under strain. This knot can be used for rescue work.



The Ontario Safety League offers the following practical considerations to help you enjoy your summer.
* Tents will remain standing through most wind storms, if the peak is supported by securing it to a rope between two trees.
* Campfires will not harm your campsite or the surrounding environment, when they are properly trenched and the fire is extinguished after use.
* Bears and racoons will not disturb your night's sleep, if you store the food in the trunk of your car. Food brought into a tent encourages hairy visitors.
* Good housekeeping about the campsite will prevent can openers, bottle caps and other objects from cutting or bruising bare feet.
* Tiny tots have a habit of wandering off in search of adventure. Sometimes parents get lost searching for them. Teach the young ones to respond to a whistle.
* Learn how to establish a ground search pattern by blazing trees at shoulder height in case you are called upon to help look for someone.
* Everyone in the family should be encouraged to learn how to swim, so that your vacation can be enjoyed and kept carefree.

happened, early this past July, in the village of St. Francois D'Assise in Quebec's Gaspé region.
Living in a coastal community, folks have grown accustomed to a few dead fish on the beach from time to time. But when a 22-ton whale beached itself—or was washed up by the sea—on the shore of Baie de Grand Pabos, it was quite a different matter.
At first, tourists arrived by the carload to gaze in awe at the 40-foot black and white carcass. But the novelty wore off for the townsfolk as the smell of the rotting monster worsened day after day.
Local police and municipal workers gave it their best shot but were unable to move the mammal's remains.
While the mayor was going through proper channels, seeking aid from Quebec's environment department and Environment Canada, the stench became increasingly unbearable. The sale of clothes-pins in the village went up 500 per cent.
Eventually, help arrived and a rather ripe denizen of the deep was towed out to sea, much to the relief of the residents of St. Francois D'Assise—thus ending one whale of a story they'll not soon forget.

Moving right along: Now that our countrywide Canada Day bash has come and gone for another year we can get back to that quaint Canadian custom of griping across our provincial borders and dumping verbal abuse on the clowns up in Ottawa.
Reminds me of Grey Cup Week—that great national boozep-up that is supposed to unite East and West. When the football game is over, and folks from coast-to-coast recover from their common hangover, we return to our grumpy, partisan selves. Year after boring year.
Makes a fella wonder just what's really going on out there. Has it always been like that? Or have I been too blind to see it?
No, Don, on both counts.

Milton Then and Now

Frog pond behind Main St.

By Mel Robinson
In reading the columns of The Champion in 1910, I could find no indication of the Sixteen Mile Creek encroaching on Main St. property at that time. It seems evident that the construction of the railway line for the Hamilton and Northwestern branch of the Grand Trunk Railway in the 1870's and the building of the P. L. Robertson Company's plant, starting about 1908, had brought about extensive changes in the flow of the creek—and in the drainage of that whole area of the town.
Apparently things were not satisfactory along the north side of Main St. Early in April 1910, the town council passed a motion giving permission to Winn and Co., John Hunter, R. B. Anderson, F. Martin, and others to lay a drain starting back of the shoe factory and Anderson's livery stable. It was to run along behind the buildings from that point to Montgomery Lane.
This was to "drain the frog pond flats" in the rear of the shoe factory, the office of lawyer (later Judge) Elliott, and other buildings along the street.
Apparently when the creek was diverted to a course along the pond bank, nothing much was done to fill in the low land of its former course near Main Street. I suppose that in the time of flood waters along the creek some water may have overflowed into the old creek bed and contributed somewhat to the drainage problem.
The Champion, however, claimed that

the main source was surface drainage from the properties on the higher level on Mill St., James St. and Main St. What was not wanted by a property owner was apparently drained off toward the nearby low area. The result was accumulation in a pond behind the buildings of stagnant water which gave off offensive odors, even in April.
The town council's motion removed the legal obstacles to any drainage action undertaken by the property owners along Main St., but it did not prompt immediate action. In the issue of April 21, it was complained that the North Ward "Pond" if anything was deeper than ever. The reeve was threatening legal action against those responsible for the mess. A petition was circulated and sent to the public health authorities.
To highlight the complaint another item in that issue of The Champion had an announcement—"AQUATIC—Big Moonlight Regatta, on the lake back of Dice's, Elliott's, and Winn's. Good music furnished by Milton's special Band of Bullfrogs. Prices and date of the Regatta to be announced later. Watch for them. The Committee on the whole—Messrs. Elliott, Dice, Winn Anderson, and Martin."
A week later The Champion was once more on the subject of the "big frog pond or cesspool" in the north ward. Those responsible claimed that the delay in the drainage project was caused by a property

owner who had fenced off the alleyway it was to follow. Although the alley appeared on the official map of the town, he claimed "peaceful possession" for the required number of years—and he wanted \$20 for a right of way for the drain.
His action in closing off the alley had never been challenged previously by the council. His obstructive tactics had to be overcome by political action. The issue could not be brushed aside. The unsanitary conditions could not be tolerated. The odors that were bad in April would be quite offensive in the hot months of the year. There was talk of a possible epidemic.
To pay the sum of \$20 would tend to support the claim of possession made by the property owner. Instead of taking this balky citizen to court, a time-consuming procedure, the council took advantage of a provincial government statute which gave it the power to order the opening of a drain on either public or private property if it was necessary for the protection of public health. In The Champion of April 28 it was announced that the ownership of the alley was not to be determined at that time, that the work of drainage was underway, and that the property owner was not going to receive the \$20 from the ditch diggers.
By May 12 all was well. The "pond site" was not attractive in appearance, but the filthy water was gone. It was expected that the grass would soon be growing over the unsightly area.

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THE PLANNING ACT AND THE PARKWAY BELT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Town of Milton

Take notice that application for amendment to Treasurer's Parkway Belt Land Use Regulation filed as Ontario Regulation No. 481/73 in the Town of Milton has been received. The application is:
(1) Applicant: M. & M. MacKinnon
File No.: 13(149)
Location: Part of Lot 2, Con. V New Survey
Proposal: To construct one single-family residence on the subject property

All submissions received in the Office of the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, c/o The Parkway Belt Group, 56 Wellesley Street W., 6th floor, Toronto, on or before the 23rd day of August, 1978 in respect of the foregoing requested amendment will be fully considered before a final decision is made thereon.
Under Section 32(9) of the Act, any interested person may request a hearing by the Ontario Municipal Board on an application for amendment to the Provincial Land Use Regulation.

W. Darcy McKeough
Treasurer of Ontario,
Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

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