

Warning issued to trout poachers

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

People caught trout fishing out of season could face a fine of \$100,000, warns the Ministry of Natural Resources.

While the fish are currently migrating upstream through Sixteen Mile Creek to their spawning grounds, trout season doesn't open until Saturday. Following reports of people poaching at the creek near the Mill Pond, ministry officials will be patrolling the area, said

Halton conservation officer Ken Snowden.

"I've been talking to (Halton) police," he said. "I know there's a problem. There's a history of it (poaching) in downtown Milton."

Under the Fisheries Act, people caught removing trout from the water by any means during the off-season could have their equipment seized as well as be fined, he said.

Also, any gear used in the process of fishing or poaching, including the offender's vehicle, could be confiscated on the spot by a ministry official. While the maximum fine under the act

is \$100,000, penalties generally range up to \$1,000, depending on the number of fish caught by the offender or past penalties incurred.

Members of the Four Seasons Anglers and Hunters are also making a plea to the public to leave the trout alone.

"By all means, take the time to view these magnificent fish from a distance, but do not disturb them during their critical spawning period," said David Featherstone, secretary of the local organization.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINÉ

Down to earth

Amazing things come from the earth like this hemlock tree growing from a cedar stump displayed by Kathy MacDonald-Novak of Crawford Lake Conservation Area. Exploring the natural environment is encouraged tomorrow (Thursday) which is Earth Day.

Secrecy common in abuse victims, expert psychologist tells court

By KAREN SMITH
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An expert in the psychology of deafness yesterday testified it's not uncommon for a sexually abused child to keep assaults a secret.

Dr. John Scanlan, a Minnesota psychiatrist who works with sexually abused deaf people, told the court deaf children often don't tell because they feel isolated with their handicap and lack education on abuse.

In many cases, where the sex abuse isn't constant, victims become attached to their abusers emotionally and accept it, he testified following questioning from

Crown Attorney Katherine Livingstone-Pickett.

"That abuser becomes an important person," said Dr. Scanlan. "They don't tell anyone because they're afraid that something will happen to the abuser."

The American doctor testified in the Milton general division court trial of Ronald Hackett, 56, of Wal-lenstein.

The former E.C. Drury School for the Deaf guidance counsellor is charged with indecent assault in alleged sex assaults on a teenaged girl who lived at his home in the early 1970s.

The woman, who is now 36, has testified he fondled her over a 10-month period in his car and home.

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'Error' knocks out 70% of town's power

By KAREN SMITH
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Human error left most of the Milton in the dark Monday afternoon, causing chaos all over town.

A power failure at about 1:20 p.m. blacked out 70 per cent of the area for more than an hour after an Ontario Hydro worker committed an "operational error," said Don Thorne, manager of Milton Hydro.

The mishap resulted in a small explosion and fire at the hydro generating station at Main Street East and Fourth Line.

The blackout stopped an elevator at the Milton courthouse, trapping two people, and interrupted court proceedings. Firefighters rescued the pair about 45 minutes later.

The lights went out at Milton Mall, restaurants and industries.

Halton police quickly manned the town's major intersections to direct motorists after traffic signals failed.

The Milton Fire Department was called to the scene of the explosion, which was described as a "fireball." But hydro workers contained the blaze and extinguished the fire, said Acting Fire Chief Harold Penson.

No one was injured in the incident however Mr. Thorne said the worker involved was extremely fortunate to have escaped being burned.

Areas north of Main Street (east of Martin Street), and south of Main Street (east of Ontario Street), as well as Campbellville up to No. 15 Sideroad, were affected by the power failure.

Despite the serious nature of the mishap, power was restored in 70 minutes, sooner than originally rumoured.

"They did remarkably well getting it back on considering what happened," said Mr. Thorne.

Severe damage was caused to about half of the interworkings at the transformer station. Power is being routed through the undamaged area.

NEWSLINES

Second charge in stabbing

A Milton youth who was stabbed during a fight outside a Main Street pizza parlour has been charged.

The 15-year-old youth, who was seriously injured after being stabbed with a knife in the stomach April 4, faces an assault charge in connection with the attack.

A dispute over French fries started the ordeal, according to Halton police. A friend of the stabbing victim was eating fries at the Milton Mall food court when he was approached by a youth.

The youth asked him if he could have one of his fries. When he declined, the youth knocked the fries onto the floor and threatened to shoot him.

A friend of the food court patron later got into a fight outside a pizza parlour with the youth who made the threat.

During the brawl, the youth pulled out a double-edged knife from inside a leg harness and stabbed him once in the lower abdomen.

The stabbing victim was taken to Milton District Hospital with serious injuries, but has since been released.

A 15-year-old Toronto youth was charged earlier this month in the stabbing with aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, and carrying a concealed weapon.

INSIDE



Springers taking part in the recreational gymnastics program participated in a meet on the weekend.

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