

Wild turkeys returning after virtual extinction

Chances are that Christmas dinner is as close as you'll ever come to contact with a wild turkey, so says Arlin Hackman in a letter.

For many people, they are the stuff of American folklore. By the 1930s, wild turkeys were all but wiped out south of the border and long gone from that portion of their original range in southwestern Ontario, because of habitat destruction and hunting.

And now we hope to bring you good news about the wild turkey in Ontario. There is a small move afloat to help sportsmen's clubs and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters restore, even in small numbers, this magnificent bird to the challenge of reproducing itself to the backwoods of Ontario.

The Halton Sportsmen's Association many years ago received six hen turkeys and one large tom from the Orillia Fish and Game club. Incidentally, this very active club has received the Mary Pickford trophy awarded to the club doing the most for conservation in Ontario.

The club had moderate success in raising a few broods of turkeys and releasing them into the wild. At least a few sightings of these were reported to me and even two from Appleby Line by a man who had observed two hen turkeys with a few chicks with them.

The club has turkeys in pens now and are getting eggs from the hens to hatch. Hopefully, we will have a few to release this fall. We have a dedicated wildlife chairman in Jim Tazier who spends many hours looking after his charges.

Reintroduction has been attempted before by our club and others like Orillia, Waterdown, with little success. But keen eyesight, excellent camouflage and strong wings allow wild turkeys to keep their distance from intruders which make them very attractive to hunters.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists

fish & game news

with ARN COULSON



have a big job on their hands to re-introduce this beautiful bird to the rigid climate of Ontario. A severe winter like the last one could wipe out our efforts overnight but we're not going to stop trying.

Ron Marshall, Joe Marshall, Rick Maris and Primo Rigo went to the Top of the Credit and returned home with a fine mess of fish. (I'll report on the opening of the pickerel season in my next column.)

Last year's deer hunt does not seem to have hurt the population of deer around Halton. Tom Ramshaw reports seeing a herd of 10 in the Kilbride area.

A Lowville man had a doe and fawn pass within a few yards of his house last week. Also, yours truly still has the deer that seems to like my garden and the fresh green peas not 100 yards from by back door.

I also have a silhouette of a man at the end of the garden that the deer pays no attention to. The silhouette even sports a hat — it's a very bold deer indeed.



Champion swimmers

Milton Aquatic Club coach Carole Murray (centre, bottom row) is surrounded by the members of the club who won ribbons and medals at the western Ontario regional championships recently in Hamilton. As a team, MAC finished an impressive second of 12 clubs in the novice competition and in just three short years have set themselves up as a power in swimming in the province.

tennis update

with ISABEL HICKSON

Tennis leagues back in action

Although the weather has not been too kind for the tennis players, the Men's C and E leagues have been playing their matches Sunday mornings.

The C league's first match with Steven Wollaston, Nick Wollaston, Mike Polvere and Ian Roberts played Mohawk Club at home and lost.

The second match was played away against Ancaster and had Polvere, Jamie White, Nick Wollaston and Roberts. This was a very close game and Milton managed to win by two points.

Their third match at home against Cedar Springs had Steven Wollaston, Nick Wollaston, White and Bill Morgan. This was a resounding win for Milton. Nick Wollaston is the team captain for the "C" league this year.

The E league team of Tom Watts, Rob Jaysman, Barry Perry and John Edwards played their first match at home against Ancaster resulting in a win for Milton.

Their second match with the same team they played away against Grimsby but unfortunately they did not win this match. John Edwards is the team captain for the E league this year.

For the first time, Milton has entered the Lakeshore Tennis Mixed Doubles league. Their first match was played at home against Aldershot. The team of Maureen Morgan & Neville Newman, Pauline Brand & Steve Wollaston, Mary Schafer & Mort Todd, and Anne Wollaston & Nick Wollaston played well and had a resounding win.

Sue Riddell is the team captain for this league this year.

Tourney looks for entries

Almost \$800 will be up for grabs when McDuffe Equipment hosts the third annual McDuffe Slo-Pitch tournament the weekend of June 9-10 at Brian Best Park.

A \$300 first prize will go to the winning entry while \$200 is the share for the consolation champion.

Each team will be guaranteed two games with a championship and consolation side set up. Regular slo-pitch rules will be used.

Teams already entered include Elks Club, Milton Colour & Sound, and Milton Legion. The tourney is open to regular slo-pitch teams in the Halton area.

Any team interested in taking part is asked to call Peter McDuffe at 878-6920 for more information. The entry fee is \$100.

Bread & Honey is a sweet race

Just three days remain before entry applications close for the sixth annual Bread & Honey 15-km road race in Streetsville June 2.

The Bread & Honey race is one-half of the Nike Double. The lowest combined times for the Bread & Honey and the Longboat Toronto Island 10-km race, for both men and women, will win an all-expense paid trip to Vancouver for the Sea Festival 7-km race July 15.

The race is open to all comers and features five categories for men and four age groups for women. The entry fee is \$6 per person.

The winner of the race will receive a trophy while each category winner wins a plaque. Medallions will be awarded to the second, third and fourth finishers in each age category. All competitors will receive a framed certificate.

The race begins at 8:30 a.m. at Streetsville Secondary School. For more information, call Steve Ward at 878-9429 or Peter Andersen at 827-3425, both after 6 p.m.

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MILTON'S HOME TEAM

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

DIANE FUNK

Thruway is pleased to name one of Milton's most active volunteers, Diane Funk "Player of the Week". Diane has been involved with the Halton Children's Aid Society for over seven years, including time spent on the Board of Directors. She has worked with enormous energy to see the founding of "The Milton Centre", a day care and multi-use facility for services to children and families in the Milton community. One of Diane's most successful undertakings is the support of an inter-generational program at the Halton Centennial Manor for the aged, where a day care facility for children has been established. Diane is presently the President of the Board of Directors for The Halton Children's Aid Society and is involved intensely with supporting foster parents, volunteers, staff and particularly the welfare of children. Thruway is proud to have Diane as a member of Milton's society and happy to name her "Milton's Player of the Week."

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