

Fish from Midland lake found to contain mercury

by Terri Howell
Fish weighing five or six pounds, taken from Midland's Little Lake are contaminated with mercury which could exceed the safe level for human consumption.

Environment Monday, said that 16 large mouth bass taken from Little Lake during open season last summer were all contaminated with mercury. The larger fish, which weighed just over two pounds, had higher levels of mercury, some

of them reaching the limit considered unsafe for humans to eat. Robin Craig, head biologist from the Ministry of Natural Resources in Midhurst said since the larger fish had more mercury in them, it is conceivable

that fish in Little Lake weighing five or six pounds should not be eaten by anyone anytime. Although not much is known about the effects of mercury on the human body, scientists do know that it can have a

profound effect on the central nervous system. Mr. Craig said there really isn't any cause for alarm since nine of the fish tested had low levels of mercury which wouldn't hurt a person eating the fish on a regular basis. He also pointed out that it is only in the predator fish that grow the largest and live the longest that the mercury is present in high levels.

The fish were turned into the Ministry of Environment by Mr. Craig. It is the first time, to his knowledge, that fish from Little Lake have been tested.

He explained that fish with over .5 parts per million of mercury in them should not be eaten on a regular basis. Fish with levels exceeding 1.5 parts per million mercury should not be eaten at all. These levels are set out by the Ministry of Health.

Seven of the 16 fish tested by the Ministry of Environment had levels exceeding the .5 parts per million mercury. All of these were over one pound and considered an acceptable size for eating.

Craig said the fish, which were caught by Bryan Berriault the Times Outdoor columnist, represented a good sample of fish from Little Lake. They were caught over a two-month period from June 1977 to August 8, 1977 when open season on Large Mouth Bass ended. Craig said, it is unfortunate that there wasn't a fish in the sample over four or five pounds.

The cause of the mercury contamination is a mystery. Mr. Craig said since there are no industries close enough to the lake to effect it, the mercury could either be from natural sources or from "fall out vapour." He explained "fall out vapour" which is released into the air from an industry blows over large areas and comes out in the rain. Since the cause of the mercury isn't known, Mr. Craig said, it is difficult to say whether the situation will get worse or better. "It could go either way," he said, "it all depends on the cause."



Happy birthday!

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Carr, 67 Broad Street in Penetanguishene, celebrated her 80th birthday last week. Mrs. Carr, wife of the late William Carr, was born in 1898 in Victoria Harbour. She has lived in Penetanguishene since 1920. Mrs. Carr's family has

lived in the area for many years, in fact, a picture of some family members can be seen on the cover of "Invisible History", a book about the history of Simcoe County.

Staff photo

Fund raising drive continues

The Penetanguishene area Heart Foundation fund raising drive is proceeding well according to area co-ordinator, Christine Summers. Despite a lack of volunteer canvassers, the drive has raised about \$500 to date. Mrs. Summers hopes that a total of \$1,500 will be raised by the end of the campaign on Tuesday, February 28. Some areas in town don't have canvassers, so

a number of the canvassers are doing more than their own area. The reason for the shortage of volunteers, according to Mrs. Summers, is that so many organizations run fund raising drives at various times of the year. "Between the Cancer Dimes, the church foundation and all the others, most of the people interested are doing canvassing for some

group," she said. A number of the people canvassing for the Heart Foundation also canvass for other organizations at different times. This is the first year Penetanguishene has been classified as a separate district, according to Mrs. Summers. Previously, canvassers from Midland covered Penetanguishene, but this year, the town has its own group of volunteer workers.

Fortunately, the imposters were foiled because they didn't have the proper receipt forms and literature that real canvassers distribute when they ask for donations. Although there is a great deal of work involved in co-ordinating the drive for this area, Mrs. Summers is enjoying the job. "It's a good way to get to know our neighbours," she said, "and I feel more a part of the town."

Centre d'activités françaises



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LOUGAROU s'en vient: le 9 mars au Théâtre Pen. Deux représentations, une matinée pour les étudiants et l'autre en soirée. Les billets sont disponibles à l'avance seulement au Centre d'activités françaises 63, rue Main. \$2.00 pour étudiants et \$3.00 pour adultes.
L'ECLIPSE—mardi le 21 février—spectacle pour les jeunes—subventionné par la Province de l'Ontario par l'intermédiaire du Conseil des Arts de l'Ontario et organisé par les comités des mères des trois garderies et sous les auspices du Centre d'activités françaises. Le prix d'entrée est .50 cents. Carnaval d'hiver "WINTERAMA" à Penetanguishene. Invitez vos familles et amis à participer. Pourquoi ne pas donner un congé à maman, enfin qu'elle puisse avoir du plaisir au carnaval et venir à notre Restaurant Canadien Français "Chez-nous" au Centre d'activités françaises, 63, rue Main. Ouvert de 11h00 à 5h00, samedi, le 25 février. Le menu se compose de soupe au pois, tourtières, tartes au sucre, café, thé ou liqueur douce. Samedi soir à 7h30, tournoi de cartes dans la grande salle du Centre. Dimanche, le 26 février, il y aura un BINGO dans la grande salle du Centre à 2h00. Venez vous amuser en grand nombre.

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church directory

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF FLOS
SCHEDULE OF MASSES: Father Neil Varley
Phelpston: Sun. 9 a.m. and
Elmvalle: Sat. 7:30 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
Minister: Rev. Sydney McDonald BA
Phonics: The Church 322-1411, The Manse, 322-2453
Elmvalle Church: Christian Education, 10 a.m. Christian Worship, 11 a.m.
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
St. John's - Elmvalle. Minister: Rev. B. Gazzard
Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Nursery during Service)
Phonics: Church 322-1472, Manse 322-1522
Wyevale United Church: 11:30 a.m.
Waverley United Church: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Allan J. McLaughlin, Minister
Hillsdale United Church
Services 9:00 a.m. each week
Minister: Reverend Arnie Chamberlain
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. All are welcome.
The Salvation Army
Midland Citadel Corps
251 Second St., Midland
Lt. and Mrs. Bruce Bailey
(Commanding Officers)
Sunday 9:30 - Sunday School 7:30 - Bible Fellowship
11:00 - Family Worship Wednesday 7:00 - Circle Church 2:00 - Ladies' Home League (all ladies welcome)
Friday 7:30 - CORNERSTONE (Teenage Bible Study, and Coffee House) Telephone: 526-2751
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ELMVALE
Rector: The Rev. J. Allan Kirk
Rectory - 322-2115 Church - 322-2712
Wycliffe Church, Elmvalle
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist weekly
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 1st and 3rd
Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th and 5th
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
St. John's Waverley
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 2nd and 4th
Morning Prayer, 1st, 3rd and 5th
Good Shepherd, Wyebride
9:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 2nd and 4th
Morning Prayer, 1st, 3rd and 5th
Sunday School at main service in the three churches.
Calvary Baptist Church
598 King St., Midland
Pastor: Rev. Rob Campbell, B.A., M.Div. 526-9681
10:00 a.m. Service of Worship and Instruction
11:15 a.m. Church School and Adult Interaction Groups
All Welcome

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