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Contracts
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Sherk's
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Don Sherk is going as far as 100 miles south of Hudson's Bay for work, but it's worth the trouble. Sherk Construction, based in Penetanguishene, expects to do \$1.7 million in business in a new field next year, more money than from the regular construction work the company does. Sherk Construction has won contracts to build three schools, entirely heated by solar power, one of which will be used by the community of Big Trout Lake, a community of 1,000 people 300 miles north of Thunder Bay, and 100 miles south of Hudson's Bay, and accessible only by air. Two hundred thousand pounds of material is being flown the 167 miles from Pickle Lake, where the closest road ends, to Big Trout Lake.

The other schools are also being built for Indian bands, both near Marathon, Ont., and both accessible by road. All three tenders were let by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Local Penetanguishene and Midland people are being employed, a plumber, electrician, and two superintendents, for example, Sherk says. The three schools are to be finished by the start of 1983. The schools are the first wholly solar heated schools in Canada, he says.

Sherk Construction has purchased a twin engine Piper airplane, to be based at Huronia Airport, and will be used to fly Sherk and others involved to the northern construction projects. The trip to Big Trout Lake is six hours, or the same distance south to Orlando, Fla. The plane, which qualifies as the first corporate plane at the local airport, will be in future available for charter flights, Sherk said.

Outdoors

by Bryan Berriault

From all reports, duck season for this year did not open with a bang. A poor showing by our duck population left many hunters high and dry in the marshes and ponds throughout the area when it came to a duck dinner.

The Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Management Area did not have the water everyone had hoped for, so the ducks sought other areas to rest their weary feathers.

As usual, the presence of those who think a shotgun can reach out beyond infinity did not help the situation. Scatterbrains with their scatterguns were taking a crack at ducks circling somewhere over Dufferin County. Their presence was felt in many of the other marshes, since it seems to be a common occurrence on opening day.

The Wye Marsh Provincial Wildlife Management Area also had its quota of

hunters for opening day, and there, too, ducks were not plentiful even though hunters were. Few hunters returned with their limits. However, most hunters did get a chance at a few ducks throughout the day.

The buddy system may be alright for swimming but most hunters take a dim view of crowding. After checking out an area for weeks I can't really say I blame a hunter for getting upset when other hunters do not show a little common sense and set up too close for comfort come opening day—or any other day for that matter.

A little courtesy goes a long way towards a successful day's hunt and promoting good relations among other hunters.

Expect the Unexpected

For those who've been looking for the smallmouth bass without success, maybe you should be looking in deeper waters.

Last week, while trying to track down a muskie or two, I kept getting readings on my Sitex 256 Graph. The readings were not big enough to be muskie, so I rigged a line on the Big Jon Downrigger for salmon—but much to my surprise, I came up with a smallmouth bass.

I was fishing in 10-12 metres (40 feet) of water and the fish were right on bottom. It fell prey to a J-Plug, a lure used for big salmon. It's possible smallmouth bass are heading for deeper water to find their preferred temperature.

For those who fish the salmon, don't put the gear away yet—it has proven most successful for muskie fishing. The Sitex HE 256 graph has read plenty of big fish out from Port McNicoll Point.

Muskies are still active in this area at the 3 to 5 metre (10-15 foot) depth. Downriggers, such as the Big Jon, will put an angler right under the nose of Ontario's largest game fish and keep him there. More and more anglers are getting in on the action by using downriggers and flasher or graph units. No, they don't guarantee fish, but they sure help find them.

Once this is done, it's still up to the anglers to make the fish an offering they can't refuse. Troll fast and use big baits.

Lately, the Swim Whizz has proven top dog for muskie.

Put the salmon gear back on the boat and get out and use it.

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