



At the Big Chute

Big Chute Marine Railway, north of Coldwater, continues to be a popular tourist attraction in not only this area but in Canada. Operating seven days a week, the marine railway shown here in

action, has become a boon for boaters down through the years. This photo was snapped Sunday afternoon.

Model fishing derby

Last week Rice Lake near Peterborough was the scene of the Rice Lake Bass Tournament. Two fishermen from south of the border walked away with the top prize consisting of a Lund Boat, Caltrailer, 25 HP Mercury outboard motor and \$2,000 in prize money. Although the prizes were good, the most important aspect of the derby was live release.

The two day fishing event boasted a one hundred percent release. All fish caught by participants made their way back into Rice Lake to fight another day. Most anglers are hoping their released bass will gain weight for next year's fish off.

The total weight for winning team of Al Linder and Ted Capra was better than thirty pounds of bass. Many will know Linder from his fishing program from south of the border entitled "The In Fisherman". Many of the top fishermen from the States, and Canada take part in the Rice Lake Bass Tournament. The Ontario Anglers and Hunters were on hand to officiate at this top notch Derby.

For those who have never fished in such derbies it's an educational experience. Keep it in mind for next year.

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Georgian Bay smallmouths haven't been going crazy over local offerings by anglers. They have been spotty to put it mildly. They have to be fished on a day-to-day basis since one day may be good while 24 hours later they have lockjaw. Fish that have been caught were taken on worms, minnows and craw-fish while the new Rapala Shad Rap worked around shallow shoals has been one of the best producers in the tackle line.

The \$100,000 bass will be taking to water soon. If it is a largemouth that carries the big prize money, work the shallow shorelines or weedbeds just off shore. Its natural tendencies for shallow water will be its downfall. If the cover in weedbeds is too thick to drag a bait through, run a buzzer or spinner bait over the surface. White skirted spinner baits has been producing but, by all means try different colour patterns in such areas. Frogs and minnows will also be productive. Don't pass up shoreline cover such as over-hanging trees or lily pad areas. My prediction—the fish will be caught.

For deer hunters it's only a matter of a few days before your application for an antlerless permit must be in. If you plan to apply, better pick up your licence and get the form filled in and sent out. It has to be in Queens Park by July 29th. Applications for Huronia's controlled deer hunt will be available Aug. 1st, and must be back in the Midhurst office by the end of August.

One classic auto rally in the works

The Ontario Motor League is sponsoring the 31st Annual Antique & Classic Auto Rally at the Canadian National Exhibition on Automotive Day, Tuesday, Aug. 30.

This event is the largest continuously run rally in Canada.

Participation is

restricted to vehicles which are 30 years or older. It is anticipated that approximately 200 antique car enthusiasts will compete for trophies in twelve categories, including vintage cars up to 1920, antiques 1921 - 1929, classics 1925 - 1948, late general interest 1942 -

1953 and commercial vehicles up to 1953. After the judging, cars such as the E M E, Model T Ford, Hudson, Durant, Studebaker, Reo and McLaughlin Buick will parade through the CNE grounds.

The rally site will be located in front of the

Marine Museum. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. and the parade will take place at 2 p.m.

To enter the 31st Antique & Classic Auto Rally contact the Ontario Motor League, FACTS Division in Toronto at 964-3170 or toll free 1-800-268-7068.

Splake in inland lakes

They'll add to Ontario angler's fish stories

Splake, the popular cross between lake trout and brook trout, will be testing the skills of fishermen in many areas of Ontario in the near future.

Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope said that approximately 30 lakes in the Muskoka-Haliburton area and in eastern and northeastern Ontario were stocked in the past month with 70,000 yearlings.

"These excellent sport fish offer a real challenge at the end of the line and make mouth-watering meals when caught," the Minister said.

He said this year's stocking marks the first large-scale splake planting in inland waters. "In future, they will also be stocked in northwestern Ontario."

Mr. Pope assured Ontario fishermen that the

province's splake stocking program would continue to provide high-quality angling in areas devoid of brook trout and lake trout.

Splake are planted into lakes where competition from native trout does not exist. Past studies have shown that splake survive better, are larger and are caught more frequently than lake trout or brook trout in these waters.

The splake stocking is in addition to the ongoing lake trout backcross stocking program in Lake Huron. The lake trout backcross—a cross between a male splake and a female lake trout—is being planted in Lake Huron to replace the dwindling population of lake trout that had suffered from sea lamprey predation and over-fishing.

White pine, Ontario's official tree? Maybe!

Not many trees ever gain celebrity status. But for one species all that could change during Ontario's bicentennial celebrations next year.

The tree slated for the limelight is the white pine, known scientifically as *Pinus strobus* — once one of Ontario's commonest species. Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope said recently that he intends to introduce legislation naming the white pine the province's official tree starting in 1984.

White pine, which grows naturally in the most populated areas of Ontario, has a special historical significance. The British Royal Navy made ship masts from it, and the export of white pine timber from Ontario was a major source of income during the province's first 50 years. Early settlers used white pine extensively for shelter, furniture, tools and even toys. Since then, it has continued to be used as a preferred forest product and is admired as a distinctive part of the Ontario landscape.

Mr. Pope said Ontario will be the first province to have an official tree. The initial move to find one began in 1980 with a proposal by the late James Auld to the Ontario Forestry Association when Mr. Auld was Natural

Resources Minister.

"A tree council established for that purpose considered 30 different species before choosing the white pine as the most suitable. Of course, this will not supplant the importance of the trillium — our

official flower," Mr. Pope added.

He said that he believed a significant cottage industry producing carvings and mementoes could be developed from this tree of "outstanding and characteristic beauty."

Voyageurs re-live the past on the Nottawasaga River

The name Nottawasaga is derived from the Ojibawa 'Nahdowa Saga'. Translated, it means Iroquois outlet. During the 1650's the Iroquois travelled along the Nottawasaga River and the Nine Mile Portage Route between Lakes Simcoe and Huron to attack the Huron people.

In a bloody massacre, they drove the Hurons out of the area altogether. Over a hundred years later, furtraders, seeking a swift route to the Northwest, followed in the native people's footsteps.

Voyageurs were hired labourers for the fur trade. These hardy adventurers were proud of their skill as canoeists. Their day began as early as 2 or 3 a.m. After one hour's paddling, they would take a pipe break.

An amazing fifteen miles could be travelled by canoe in just three hours. To increase morale and break the monotony of their long days, the voyageurs often sang ballads and traditional folk songs. In the evening after repairs had been made to the canoes, tall tales mingled with tobacco smoke around the campfire.

Come; relive the rugged days of the voyageur. Participate in the special programme at Nancy Island Historic Site on Thursday, July 28.

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