



trailblazers
OUTDOORS WITH
Alex Eberspaecher

Fishing in Canada's Atlantic provinces could be the most expensive sport, at least if you insist on tuna or salmon fishing. On the other hand, fishing in the ocean could cost nothing or perhaps a mere twenty dollars.

Along the coast, every town or village has at least one public fishing wharf. Get out your regular spinning tackle, put on a small silver spinner or spoon and sit tight until you see those white stripes in the water.

Those stripes are mackerel, a small fish that slightly resembles a small tuna. They are dark blue striped on the top and white underneath.

The unusual thing is that this fish never stays still; it is always on the move. I am told that it doesn't have the normal type of gills, so it must swim constantly to get a flow of water through its mouth and out the gill covers.

The ones you catch from the pier run from eight inches to 20 inches, with 12 to 14 inches being about average.

Don't be surprised when you pull in a much smaller fish than you thought you saw; the mackerel is surrounded with an air bubble that makes it appear larger and silvery in color.

They really put up a good fight as

they are all muscle. They could be compared to a rainbow in fighting quality.

Mackerel swim close to the shore in schools, moving in, turning, and moving out again. This is when you have to make your cast. The common practice down east is to cut the first fish into small chunks for bait.

From then on all you need is a good bass hook and a sharp eye. Take along a good-sized bucket, as you will get at least 50 fish in a couple of hours.

What do you do with 50 fish you ask. Sell them to the local people for 25c each and to the tourists for twice as much.

When I fish in the ocean, I like to go to one of the many fish plants on the south shore. Their wharf is open if you act in responsible manner, to anyone.

Take along your spinning gear with 15 pound test monofilament line, a single hook and a good sinker. I guarantee that, before your sinker hits bottom, you will have a strike. One evening my wife and I fished for about two hours and had six different types of fish. Pollock, cod and ocean perch are the most common.

There are some ugly looking fish called sculpins, and you could catch eels, stingrays, and small sand

sharks up to four feet in length. Sometimes when you reel in you get nothing but a crab or starfish.

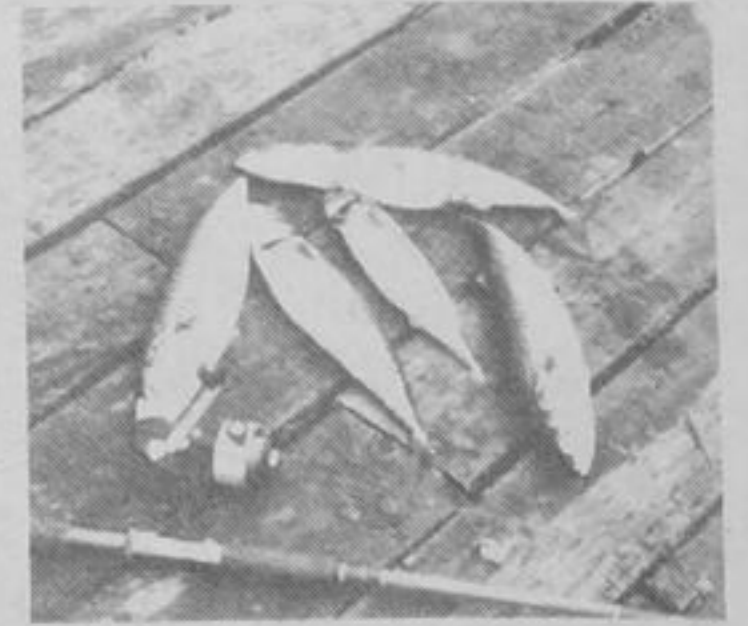
Most of the fish taken like this are returned to the water or fed to the gulls, but I really enjoy it, as you never know what is on the end of the line.

Best of all, it costs nothing — a far cry from the \$75 it costs to fish for salmon in New Brunswick.

Well, this is the end of another year's vacation, and next week we will be back in Ontario to start the hunting season off with a special story about Wild Boar.

In the meantime, if you plan a trip to the East Coast, remember you

can have lots of fun and success and it doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg.



Hill resident protests tax increase

An increase of 19 percent in his 1975 taxes over last year, "far in excess of the inflation rate", was questioned by G. Springer, 52 Roosevelt Drive, south Richmond Hill, in the question period which preceded the Sept. 2 meeting of town council.

Why people in Richvale pay "a disproportionate share of taxes when they lack services" (specifically sanitary sewers and sidewalks) and reminded Mayor David Schiller that he had promised the town's financial information would be simplified.

Springer said he had not found the recently published auditors' report easy to understand.

The mayor agreed a simplified form of financial information was still "a goal we have to achieve", although the first step had been taken earlier in the year when the staff had prepared in graph form a status review.

It is the intent to update this at the beginning of next year.

He said he also recommended to staff a recent summary by the regional council which showed expenditures for different functions from year to year with the suggestion the town could issue a similar summary.

"This would give the public a chance to react to the number of dollars we are spending in various departments and programs," he said.

The mayor also noted any resident and ratepayer is free to call the town treasurer for an explanation of financial matters.

He told the questioner the format of the published statement is set by statute and is a statutory accounting of municipal finances.

To make information more readily available and more easily understood, Councillor Andy Chateauvert, chairman of council's finance committee, told the ratepayer the town's budget has been prepared according to program.

"It is available and will give you the reasons for the costs. It will tell you how much it costs to maintain roads, how much we are spending on parks and recreation, etc."

"When the budget is being set council has to decide if it is going to maintain the existing level of programs, improve them or decrease expenditure on them," he said.

Mayor Schiller then went on to explain the local council controls the expenditure of only about 35 cents of each tax dollar.

The average increase (on a \$20,000 assessment) at the local level was \$32, but there were also increases in the educational and regional taxation, he said.

He pointed out the educational levy is the largest portion of the tax bill, ranging from 50 to 55 percent.

"Maybe we are coming to the stage where education boards should raise their own taxes and send you their own tax

where there are sewers would be assessed higher." The policy was established five years ago that there be one residential and one commercial mill rate for the whole town, Regional Councillor Lois Hancey explained. The town opted to achieve this in five years.

The largest expenditure made by the town is servicing roads, the mayor said, explaining the number of feet of roads to serve a dwelling compared to the number in rural residential areas to serve an apartment is substantial when

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