

Gold medal for Bonnie



Bonnie Branch wins gold, bronze

OAKVILLE — Bonnie Branch showed great form over the weekend with backstroke performances which won her gold and bronze medals in the backstroke events at the Ontario Division II senior Age Group Championships.

It was a personal triumph for the 14-year-old Richmond Hill Aquatic Club swimmer. She was swimming against older swimmers than her normal age group allows but placed first in the 100 metres senior backstroke race for girls. Her time of 1:14.7 was her best ever time for the event.

The next day, swimming in the 200 metres backstroke event, Bonnie

knocked four seconds off her best time to get a bronze with a time of 2:41.8.

Bonnie had also qualified for the fly finals but, as a tactical strategy, she scratched to permit her full energies to be focussed on the 100 metres final. The tactic was rewarded by her gold medal.

She showed great form in all her races and had to pull — break personal records to make first, then place in the finals.

Only a few weeks ago, Bonnie won a bronze in the Division II age group championships for the 100 metres backstroke event, bringing her medals total up to two bronzes and a gold — all within two months.

Tates Bay downs

Bancroft by 6-2

PARRY SOUND — Bates Bay Development Ltd. knocked off Bancroft 6-2, bowled over Keswick 7-0, but were halted by Parry Sound 4-1 in Little N.H.L. bantam action over the school break.

Tates Bay Development Ltd. opened with a convincing 6-2 win over Bancroft and Rick Greenslade's three goal performance earned him a M.V.P. award for his outstanding game.

Other goals were scored by Bill Carswell, John Metcalfe and James Cummins.

Steve Nolan picked up two assists and others went to Mark Smith, Mike Rice and John Metcalfe.

Greg Munshaw and Dean Kellar replied for

Bancroft. Dan Degeer and Rick Greenslade paced Bates Bay Development Ltd. bantams with two goal efforts in a 7-0 trouncing of Keswick.

John Cummins, Ken Clague and John Metcalfe netted singles for Oak Ridges.

Ken Clague and John Metcalfe each had two assists with others by James Cummins and Steve Nolan.

Aside from Ken Clague's marker Oak Ridges couldn't dent the Parry Sound armor and lost 4-1.

Jeff Barks, Danny Eagan, Greg Gillespie and Brian McLeod did the damage for Parry Sound.

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Good old days?

The electronic age has caught up with us — the fisherman. I'm certain that anyone who visited the Sportsmen's Show this year must have walked away with the feeling that the good old days, when one had to work for ones limit, have gone forever.

Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to test just about all of the new equipment. Some of the gadgets helped me find fish, some are responsible for a few of the lunkers I have added to my collection, but, believe me, none of them caught the fish for me — I had to do the work myself.

Old timers knew

True, old timers have taken fish from their favourite waters for many years, and all without electronic aids, but this is what has changed. Nowadays, most anglers have never had the opportunity to get to know the waters.

The old timers fished one or two bodies of water all their lives, and they got to know the bottom, the hidden hotspots, and even the best wind and weather conditions.

I am sure some of it was luck, but after a few years, they were quite able to find the best spots and the right conditions.

Know the hotspots

Assuming that you fish one particular area once or twice a year, there is no way you will get to know the hotspots by yourself. Go out and purchase a depth-finder.

These gadgets range from the more simple ones at about \$100.00 to the sophisticated sonic finders in the \$500.00 range. The better ones reach to about two hundred feet and even will record the fish and the bottom contour on a paper graph. Let me give you a few examples of how they worked for me.

Fishing the canal

Canal Lake is located just east of Lake Simcoe on the Trent Canal System. Several years ago I fished from the shore shoulder to shoulder with other anglers. It was late afternoon and only three fish had been taken that day. As luck will have it, I used a silver Mepps, casted out about fifty feet and had a strike as soon as my lure hit the water.

Five minutes later I had a four and a half pound Walleye in my net. At this, all the guys sent their wife and kids over to see what secret bait I was using. Luck! That's what the verdict was after a quick meeting.

I smiled and made a second cast to the same spot and promptly latches on to another Walleye. Landing this fish, I got mobbed, so I decided not to press my luck any further. With this second fish, I left all my surprised fellow fishermen.

Night fishing

I returned that same night. Under the cover of the darkness, I used my fish finder to establish that the bay



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where I had fished was weedy and at least twenty feet deep.

I also found that on the same spot where I fished was a gravel bank not more than five feet under the surface, and about ten feet in diameter.

The fish were feeding on this shoal in the late afternoon. I had fished this spot many years but was unaware of the rocks. Since this time, I have consistently taken my share from the same hotspot.

Trout guide

Two years ago I fished Lake Simcoe with a trout guide. We cruised the lake in late May, until we found a school of smelts. Those little fish marked on our depth finder at about ten feet below the surface.

At about twenty feet we marked a few large fish. 'Lake trout' my guide remarked hopefully. No sooner had our Rapalas reached twenty feet when we had our first strike. A lake trout of 16 pounds was my first fish of the day.

In short order, we all had our limit. The largest one won me an award in a national fishing contest. Not too much expertise was needed, mind you, but it was quite interesting to pick your fish for a change. We decided to repeat this next weekend.

Water temperature

Well, the next weekend showed a change in water temperature. We still marked fish but none of them would hit, so a pow-wow brought out my newest piece of equipment, a temperature probe.

With this we found that the water was much too warm for lakers and we reasoned that the fish must be Walleye. We had guessed right, and a change of methods brought us our limit, the largest one bringing me Molsons award.

The way to do it

Marking fish on your depth finder does not happen too often, but you will be able to establish the contours of the bottom. The finder will tell you the depth of the water, find the holes for you and show you whether you have a sandy, mud or rock bottom.

Take all of this into consideration, and you will save about five years of experimenting at any one spot. Combine this knowledge with the proper conditions, and you are ahead of your buddy next to you.

In next week's column I will describe the use of the temperature probe and the right water temperatures that will help you catch those trophies.

Auto gang wins 8-1

RICHVALE — R and R Auto Repair ran roughshod over W and P Motors by an 8-1 score in house league playoff action March 21.

Stephen Mettel turned in a superb performance with five goals and three assists and Neil Cooke followed with three goals and an assist.

David Ezechiels and Mathew Hozjan each drew three assists with others going to Dean Reilly and Tommy Bucci.

Eddie Baily scored the lone W and P goal from Rodney Clugston and Tom Wilson.

R and R Auto Repair now lead W and P Motors by seven goals in a two game total goals series.

Dance

On April 24 the Richvale Minor Hockey Association will hold a hockey dance with a 50's theme. Tickets are \$10 per couple and are available from Claudette McKinlay at 884-7763 and May Butler at 889-4508 or any member of the executive or women's auxiliary.

On April 28 there is a general meeting of the Richvale Minor Hockey Association at 8 p.m. on the mezzanine floor of Hillcrest Mall. Submit candidates names for the executive to C. K. Twidale at 889-1401 or to any member of the executive.

The annual banquet is to be held at Don Head Secondary School on May 15. Referees and sponsors are to be present for the 5:30 p.m. banquet. Parents and friends are invited for the start of presentations at 7:15 p.m.

Gold medal miss

MARKHAM — Eleven year old Lisa Davidson of R.R. 2 Markham just missed a gold medal by six points but still came home with a silver medal March 14.

Occasion was the Provincial Singles' bowling championships March 14 at Scarboro.

She posted a three game score of 626 competing in the best of her age class from Ontario and Quebec.

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