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By ALEX EBERSPAECHER

**Ideal fishing plug**



A friend of mine has a handmade 16-inch wooden fishing plug on his store wall. To many customers, this nicely painted plug is simply an ornament, much too large for fishing. These same anglers would buy a six-inch lure and expect to catch a large musky or pike on it. The same is true when it comes to using minnows.

This wooden plug, unfortunately not for sale, would be my choice when trying for that trophy pike or musky we have all been waiting for. I'll bet my best fishing tackle that a two-foot pike would strike this lure when hungry. The same must be assumed when fishing with live bait.

While fishing on Georgian Bay during an early summer evening, we got pike after pike on the small six inch minnows but the fish averaged only about three pounds.

A day later we returned to the same spot, this time with an assortment of baitfish. Conditions were the same as before and we began with the same size minnows, being concerned only with our shore lunch. After having a good feed, we changed to somewhat larger minnows, only to catch larger pike, on the average. The experiment was complete when we switched to large live suckers as bait.

True, the action slowed down somewhat with these minnows that were more than 10 inches long but our quarry had nearly doubled in size, now averaging 8 to 10 pounds. One of us, figuring that it might be merely chance, switched to small minnows again and again caught small pike.

However informal, such an experiment shows that it is ridiculous to expect a 10 pound pike or musky to waste its energy on a 4 inch baitfish.

Large bait and lures are not only a must for large pike and musky but also for such species as bass and walleye. The

latter is my favorite later on during the fall in the Moon River and, although I probably catch fewer fish than most fishermen in that area, I am sure that I catch larger fish than many of them.

I troll for my fish during the cold November nights using nothing less than a seven inch Rapala, quite a change when you consider that most anglers use nothing larger than four inch minnows or even small jigs.

Years ago, few tackle stores had anything larger than a five or six inch wooden plug or minnows up to five inches. Now the shelves are stocked with plugs larger than the average brooktrout we catch in our area. Bait dealers, especially along Georgian Bay, are seldom without a good supply of large suckers.

The next time you buy lures, get a size or two larger than you would usually buy. The end results will surprise you, especially if you read the instructions that usually come with the lure.

All brand-name lures will catch fish. They are all designed to imitate baitfish, some in healthy condition, some in troubled condition. I have found that the latter catches more fish.

Experiment after experiment has shown that gamefish will pass up healthy baitfish for one that is in trouble, swimming differently from the rest. It is with this in mind that such popular musky and pike lures as the "jerk baits" were developed.

Imitating a large wounded sucker having difficulty swimming, such baits account for just as many trophy fish as are taken by live, large suckers. This is something you should keep in mind when you replenish your tackle box or hit your local bait store for live minnows.

Large bait definitely catch fewer fish, but the ones you get are definitely worth all your efforts.

**Swim meet**

The Town of Richmond Hill Parks and Recreation Invitational Elementary School Swim Meet will be held next Monday at the Centennial Pool, 161 Newkirk Road.

The meet, designed to provide swimming competition for elementary school children, will run from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Seven schools will be participating involving 175 children.

Ribbons will be awarded for first to sixth place finishes in the individual events and to first place for the relays.

A trophy will be presented to the school which accumulates the most points.

For further information contact John Pirie at 884-6651.

**Sailing major event of corps**

"Sailors Have More Fun" is not only a popular bumper sticker but it also echoes the sentiments of all the members of RC-SCC Patriot.

"Patriot" is the name of Richmond Hill's sea cadet corps and this summer many of its members will be doing just that - sailing.

For four Monday evenings in June the whole corps is practising sailing on Lake Simcoe near Barrie. At the end of June they are also taking part in a weekend sailing camp.

Following the sessions in June, 13 cadets are Anglican Church in Richmond Hill at 7:30 p.m. The corps attracts across the country from members from as far away as Newmarket, Vancouver to Halifax. Also in June, Patriot is offering its members the chance of a lifetime when they spend a weekend at NORAD headquarters in North Bay discovering a little about what goes on there.

Besides learning how to sail, the cadets learn navigation, knots, cutlass drill, rifle drill and other naval skills.

Patriot is currently looking for new members, both male and female, from 13 to 19 years of age. There are vacancies for 10 cadets.

RC-SCC Patriot welcomes visitors and meets every Monday night at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Richmond Hill at 7:30 p.m. The corps attracts members from as far away as Newmarket, Willowdale and Scarborough.

**CANCELLATION DEADLINE**  
Deadline for cancellation in the Liberal is 3 p.m. Friday, prior to the Wednesday publication

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**Liberal**