



opinion

Fishing? ... For Food or Pleasure??

Spring has sprung ... the days are filled with sunshine ... the lakes are gradually ridding themselves of several feet of ice ... and many folks can be seen outside in their back yards preparing their boats and motors for the great fishing season ahead of them. Let's hope that their main purpose for fishing is one of pleasure ... not out of necessity for food.

Pleasure fishing is just that, although many pleasure fishermen that I know, are serious hard working individuals. Men (and women) who rise at the crack of dawn to get first grabs at that favourite fishing spot. These are the same people who would lie through their teeth in order for you not to find out where they caught that 5 lb. speckled trout. These are the same people who spend horrendous amounts of money equipping themselves with the proper boat, motor, fishing rods, tackle, fuel, clothing, and all the other essentials that are required by the 'in' fisherman.

And occasionally you may find them dining on the delicate prize that they may have caught. That is, as long as they weren't one of many who caught that delicacy in the Pukaskwa National Park area. You remember don't you? That's where people have been warned not to eat the fish. Why? Because some fish were recently found to have elevated levels of mercury content in them. And not only mercury, but also manganese.

Rumours have it that this has been caused by a number of sources. One being acid rain which has caused high mercury levels in the lakes as a direct result from industrial pollution. Namely the local pulp mill. The high levels of manganese also points fingers at acid rain as the cause.

Now this isn't really news. Two years ago, the Ministry of Environment did an acid rain study as a result of fish being found way back then that contained abnormally high levels of mercury. Action should have been taken two years ago as far as I'm concerned. Why wait until the damage is so extensive that it will take generations to clean it up?

Pukaskwa Park will be posting warning signs, directed at the fishermen. These signs will probably state that levels of mercury are high and that one should not eat the fish. Signs will remain posted until further studies are conducted. What the studies intend to investigate is whether or not the high levels are linked between acid rain and mercury levels in the fish.

In the meantime, many will still be fishing for food, out of necessity. No one has stated just what will be done to clean up the lakes. No one has

stated just how much money will be forwarded to have this study done. But as it stands right now, 7 out of 750 lakes within the Park are affected. Who's to say that next month the number won't go as high as 70? Let's hope not. It's not only a form of recreation that the majority of northerners partake in, but it's a tradition as well.

Speaking of fishing ... I understand that non-resident fishing licences have risen again. The fee for a non-resident of Ontario to fish in our province is now set at \$30.00. Now there's nothing wrong with increasing the fee. If one from out of province wishes to fish out abundant lakes and streams, one will have to expect to pay for that privilege.

But where is the money from the licence fee going? Is it going into the pockets of government and being buried in various other fee increases that show no results ... or will it be used to restock? I sincerely hope that the government plans a major restocking programme with the surplus monies from this fee increase. Will the monies also be used to clean up our lakes and rivers ... be it pollution or the increased levels of lamprey in north-western Ontario lakes? Allocations of funds have already been set aside for lamprey treatments in the Lake Superior area, and more information will be made public on this topic when I receive their latest facts and figures on the lamprecide programme which is currently being done in the northwest.

Fishing ... it's still a sport to some. It's a way of life for many. Let's make sure, however, that the fish will still remain edible if we need them.

The Terrace Bay-Schreiber News is published every Wednesday by:
Laurentian Publishing Co. Ltd., Box 579, Terrace Bay, Ontario. P0T 2W0.
Telephone: (807) 825-3747.

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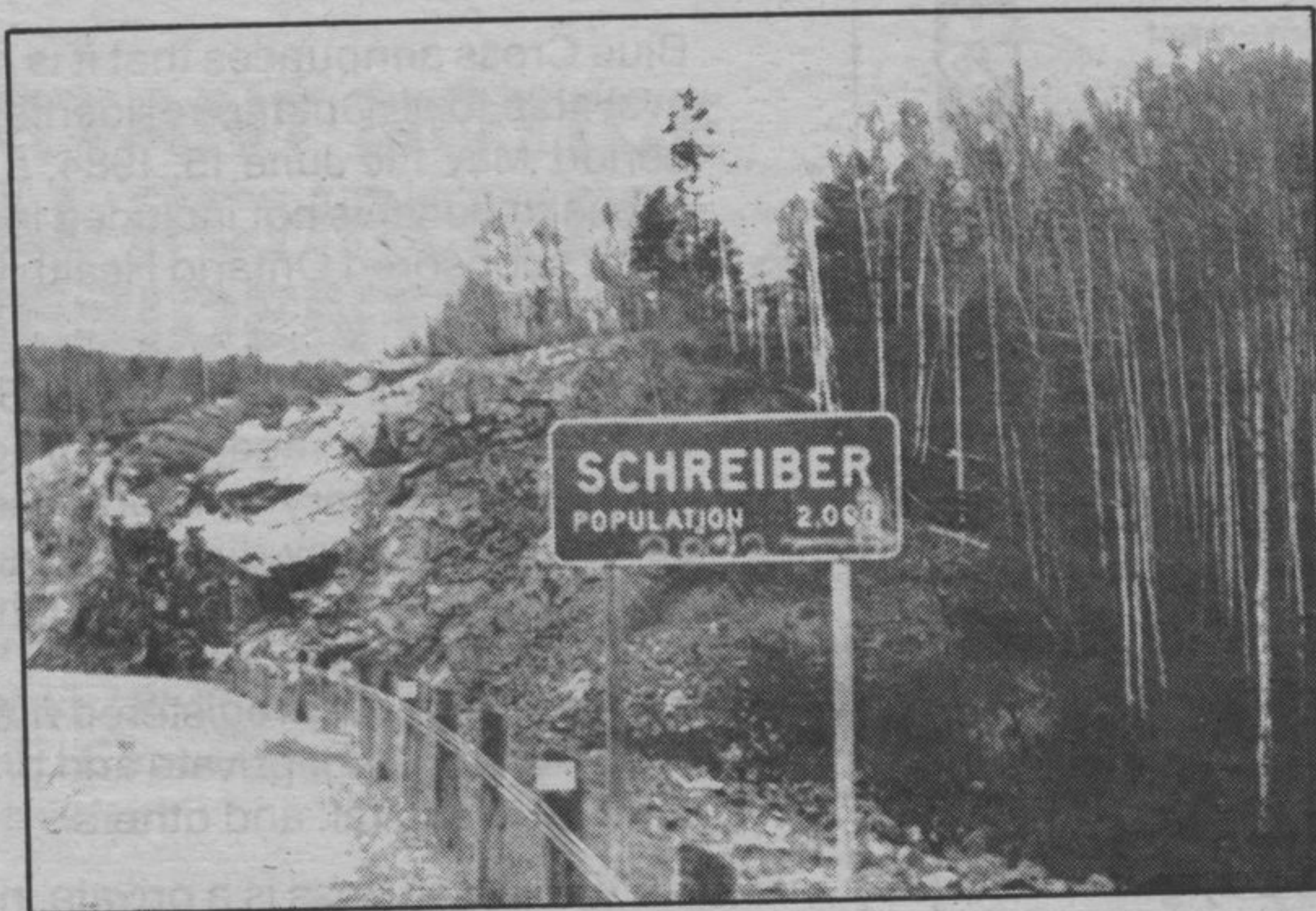


DEADLINE: Friday NOON
Subscription rates: \$12.00 per annum (local); \$18.00 per annum (out-of-town). Second Class Mail
Registration No. 0867.



The Last Word

Welcome to Schreiber - (both of you)



by LYNNE BADGER

As you have probably noticed (because it is hard not to), some person (or people) have taken it upon themselves to "beautify" the area east and west of Schreiber by decorating the population sign with orange paint. This really was not necessary as the area looked quite naturally lovely before the addition.

While pondering the reason for the change made on the signs, the first thought that came to mind was that someone had twins and thought the event warranted an amusing amendment to the sign. We are not amused! It would have been a nicer idea to contact Canada Census and the Ministry of Transportation and offer to update the sign properly, or even just patiently await the next census.

On second thought it may be that Schreiber has two new residents and they have chosen vandalism as a method of letting the town know that they arrived. I wonder how they would feel if the Township wrote on their house with orange spray paint, "Welcome to Schreiber."

If the perpetrators were indeed new residents then I hope that they have since left Schreiber because Schreiber doesn't need vandals. If they have not as yet moved on, then perhaps they would consider a request to "Hit the Road."

Anchor

The gospel of Jesus Christ is simplicity, as indeed are some of the most important ideas. Formulas, action and words — for instance Einstein's Theory of Relativity "E=MC squared" or our most basic of needs, water, "H2O". Not pages or reams of formulas but a few simple letters which encompass some of the greater thinking and ideas. "Love" is a small word with a world of meaning. The "Gospel" is "Good news — or God news". The statements and verses may be understood by a child and yet provide a lifetime of study for our great philosophers and thinkers. "Beautifully simple and simply beautiful" is the Gospel. Examples—

For faith or knowledge:
Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

James 1:5 - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

It is possible we may not always love our parents or family but "honour" is "respect or esteem".

Exodus 20:12 - Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Question Who is the greatest and most powerful, the most important?
Matthew 18:1-6 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little

child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receiveth one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Finally, Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

May we follow the admonitions of the Lord, that are "beautifully simple and simply beautiful" with small deeds; for small deeds lead to bigger deeds, and do not require much to start with, but many small deeds encompass a world of love and meaning. Give a smile today, a kind word, a helping hand to make someone's burden lighter and you give and will receive love.

Peter Monks, Branch President
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints