

Don Chubbock

The fisherman's friend counts, measures fish

STOUFFVILLE — A day's work for your average Stouffville is probably either ploughing a field, or pushing a pencil, or perhaps tightening a bolt on the assembly line. But not for Don Chubbock of 7th Concession.

Every morning Don gets into a guppy-shaped sailing vessel and puts out into Lake Ontario. His job involves catching, counting and measuring the fish that have wandered into pre-set traps at various points.

It's all part of "Operation Doorstep Angling," whose motto is: "There's no need to roam when you can angle at home."

People, Don says, "are all set up to go 100 miles north to fish when there are all kinds of varieties of fish right on their doorstep."

Don and his cohorts are gathering data that will let fishermen know which fish are where in Lake Ontario, and in the Humber River and elsewhere. They will also let people know how many fish there are, and whether they are edible or not.

Some fish are sent in to the Ministry of the Environment in order to test for the accumulation of various chemicals in the beasts.

The "Operation Doorstep Angling" project is co-sponsored by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Surprisingly, Don reports that "the water quality is definitely improving...Species are coming back." There are four dozen species of fish in Lake Ontario today, he said.

He has faith that "although we can destroy a lot of creatures, nature will still survive."

Don, who has his masters' degree in biology bases his work on the belief that man must "respect what's there and use it as responsible stewards." Men should be "caretakers" of the creation," he says.

Don's biological work prior to his present fish-counting duties has included lecturing to schoolchildren on maple syrup production, studying marshland (including banding ducks) and creating display cases at Queen's Park.



Don Chubbock of 7th Concession holds a duck he has just banded in his work for the Ministry of Natural Resources. At the moment, Don is catching and measuring the fish in Lake Ontario and local rivers.

He also did research on the beaver population in Ontario, discovering that it has "increased dramatically since they started to manage them."

Don believes you can "plan your environment so man does live in harmony with other creatures," although "man comes first."

Pollution, he says, "stems from greed...an unwillingness to put the money into getting use out of your excess waste."

Don received his master's degree at the University of Massachusetts, a place with a good wildlife management program. He also met his Canadian wife, Karen, who was also getting a graduate degree in biology. Karen now teaches biology in grades 7 and 8 in North York.

Each had esoteric, but interesting-sounding thesis topics. Don studied the predation of robins and blackbirds on blueberries, while Karen investigated "the mating behaviour of the Japanese Quail."

Protection from vandals proves costly

MARKHAM — It's going to cost local taxpayers almost \$3,000 to guard against vandalism and irresponsible behavior at three of the town wells.

The cost was revealed in an Engineering Committee report to Regional Council recently. Recommending the installation of chain-link fencing around the wells, the report detailed an increase in vandalism and the danger of children playing on the pump-houses.

Quotations were submitted for fencing Unionville Well No. 2, Sabiston Well No. 5, and Markham Well No. 8. The low tender of \$2,966 was recommended, and Council voted approval without discussion.

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