

Window On Wildlife

A visit to a heronry.

By Art Briggs-Jude
My first introduction to a Great Blue Heron happened in our own living room when I was a very small child. I remember it was much taller than I, and it had a very long, sharp, bill. My father bought it from a taxidermist in Quebec, and it occupied a place of prominence until a new nearly full grown kitten decided to practice stalking on this big bird. For its pains, the cat was banished to the shed and the headless heron ended up in a closet, eventually to be discarded with other refuse. Such was the fate of many of these large birds before public opinion and ensuing legislation decided they looked better in living color than in a living room pose. Oddly enough though, it was not the laws passed prohibiting the killing of these large birds that saved them from the very brink of extinction. Rather, it was a U.S. bill designed to stop the demand for heron plumes on the New York market. With the milliners trade unable to use the gorgeous plumage in their creations because of this act passed in 1910, all members of the heron family began to recover. Today, in many areas, Great Blue Herons are a common sight.

Most of us know the Great Blue Heron as a patient fisherman, a large winged "crane", that jumps from the water's edge when disturbed and flaps away with a loud guttural "awk". But this picturesque part of our rural landscape has another side few people see. For this long-legged wader, standing four feet high, and with a wingspan of nearly six feet, nests in the uppermost branches of tall trees in colonies. Come with me on a visit to one of these isolated nesting sites and discover the birthplace of "Old Stills".

After an early morning trip, one of my companions gestures towards a large woodlot. "The heronry is in that section," he says, "but we can get closer by driving around and coming in over the railway tracks." The wood lot we are entering stands tall and green against the early morning sky. Where the sun breaks through the canopy of new leaves, pools of blackish water can be seen. The dark muck squishes under our boots creating a disturbance that sends up swarms of hostile mosquitoes. Only liberal applications of insect dope keeps these hordes

of fury at bay and allows us to continue. A quarter mile into this shadowed seclusion, and we come to a place where several dead oaks open up patches of the forest cover. High in the tops of these trees, each on a separate bleached limb, are fastened the large round stick-nests. We have reached the heronry.

At our approach, some of these huge birds utter deep nasal notes, not unlike the calls of tame geese. A few birds spread their wings and clatter out of sight, while others merely stick their serpentine heads over the nest edge and remain motionless. From our position some eighty feet below, these herons look about the size of chickens. The herons are beginning to return with food for their brooding mates. Each arrival is greeted with much fuss, a show of duck-like gabbling. Sometimes when the big birds take off again, the whole tree shakes and vibrates which may account for some of the broken greenish eggs we see lying at our feet. Also in the debris below the nest structures, are the splattered whitewash droppings of the forty or so pair nesting here. This excrement coupled with dead fish, and some

unfortunate young that have tumbled down, give the place an aroma that is far from pleasant. But you try to breathe a little less than normal, fascinated by the activity taking place in the tree-tops above.

Finally the hour and the circumstances dictate it's time to leave. From your companion you learn this particular heronry has a history that dates back to when the first railway line was laid, sometime in the early 1900's. It is to the credit of the farmers nearby, that the heronry has survived. For it is in such nesting sites, the huge waders face their toughest task. By nature normally wary and alert, when at nest they seem to lose this caution, falling easy prey to those who would destroy them. This fact, coupled with the bird's traditional nesting site tendencies, means that new colonies are rarely started. Thus the loss of a heronry by thoughtless action whether on the birds themselves or on their tree-top sanctuary, reflects a loss to the whole surrounding community.

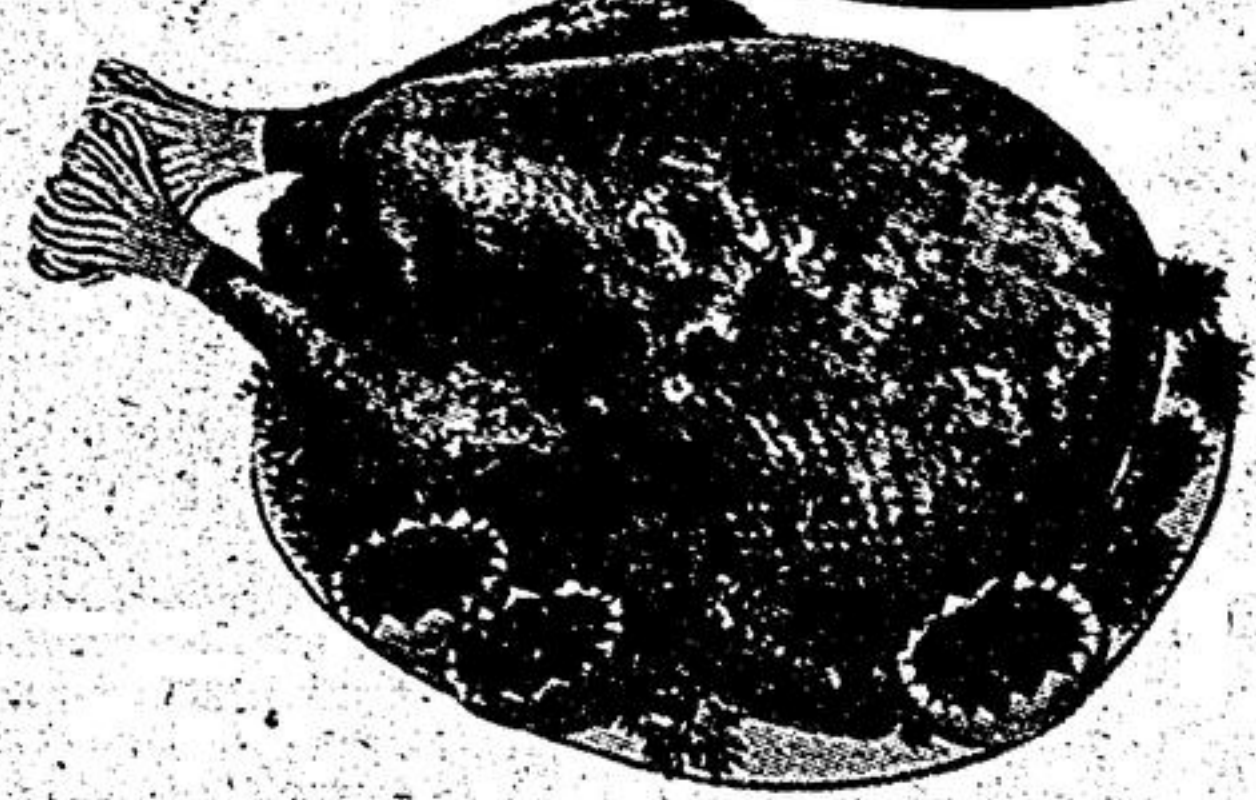
Luckily, there are more than 400 known heronries in Ontario. A co-operative project involving the Ministry of

Natural Resources, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Long Point Bird Observatory is now under way to map out unknown nesting sites, and to discover the effect pollution and habitat destruction is having on the heron population. Hunters, anglers, naturalists, and anyone else who may know of a heronry, are asked to contact Terry Quinney, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario.

For those of us who have gazed wonderingly at a Great Blue Heron's sudden, yet unhurried, departure from the marsh ahead, or watched from a concealed position his one-footed fishing escapades, let the hope prevail that this traditional part of our ponds, lakes and rivers survives for as long as the water contained in these waterways remains.



for all your food needs for the HOLIDAY WEEKEND



CANADA GRADE A EVISCERATED, YOUNG

UNDER 12-LBS.

Fresh Turkeys 99¢ LB.

MAPLE LEAF, COOKED, VACUUM-PACKED, BONE-IN BUTT HALVES

Smoked Hams

\$1.39 LB.

- CANADIAN QUEEN, LINK OR FARM STYLE Pork Sausages LB. 99¢
- MARY MILES, SLICED, MAC & CHEESE, MOCK CHICKEN OR BOLOGNA 16-OZ. PKG. \$1.25
- Sandwich Meals 6-OZ. PKG. 99¢
- CANADIAN QUEEN, SLICED Cooked Ham 6-OZ. PKG. 99¢
- MARY MILES, BY THE PIECE Bologna LB. 75¢
- SWIFT'S PREMIUM "SIZZLEMAN" Smoked Pork Slices 12-OZ. PKG. \$1.69
- MAPLE LEAF, COOKED, BONE-IN VACUUM PACKED, SHANK QUARTERS Smoked Hams LB. \$1.49

MARY MILES, COOKED BONELESS, 3-LB. AVG. Dinner Hams LB. \$1.89	FRESH LEG OR BREAST Turkey Quarters LB. \$1.19
MARY MILES, BEEF Steakettes (4-OZ) or Patties (6-OZ) 3-LB. CONT. \$2.99	MARY MILES Wieners 1-LB. PKG. \$1.09
CANADA GRADE A FROZEN YOUNG, EVISCERATED, TABLETTE Self-Basted Turkeys UNDER 12-LBS. LB. \$1.19	MARY MILES, SLICED Side Bacon 1-LB. PKG. \$1.09

- YORK, SMOOTH Peanut Butter 500 g JAR **99¢**
- CAPRI, ASSORTED COLORS Bathroom Tissue 4-ROLL PKG. **89¢**
- Sunlight Powdered Detergent 6L BOX **\$2.79**
- FROZEN, BEEF, CHICKEN OR TURKEY York Meat Pies 2 8-OZ. PKGS. **89¢**
- ASSORTED FLAVORS Royal Jelly Powders 5 3-OZ. PKGS. **\$1**
- WHITE SWAN ASSORTED COLORS Paper Towels 2-ROLL PKG. **99¢**
- LEAVER Mushrooms Pieces & Stems 10-FL. OZ. TIN **69¢**
- ASSORTED VARIETIES CHATEAU DRY COLA GINGER ALE OR ORANGE Soft Drinks 12-FL. OZ. JAR **39¢**
- HUMPTY DUMPTY, PLAIN OR RIPPLE ONLY Potato Chips 200 g PKG. **69¢**

ONTARIO GROWN CANADA NO. 1 GRADE **Corn on the Cob** DOZ. **79¢**

PRODUCE OF U.S.A. - LB. **Nectarines** **49¢**

- PRODUCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA DOLE OR CHOURITA Bananas LB. **25¢**
- ONTARIO GROWN CANADA NO. 1 GRADE Cabbage **3 FOR 99¢**
- ONTARIO GROWN Bunch Carrots **3 FOR 99¢**
- ONTARIO GROWN CANADA NO. 1 GRADE Celery Stalks EA. **39¢**

ASSORTED VARIETIES **Rose Relish** 12-FL. OZ. JAR **39¢**

CASE OF 24 x 10-FL. OZ. TINS **Soft Drinks** **\$2.99**

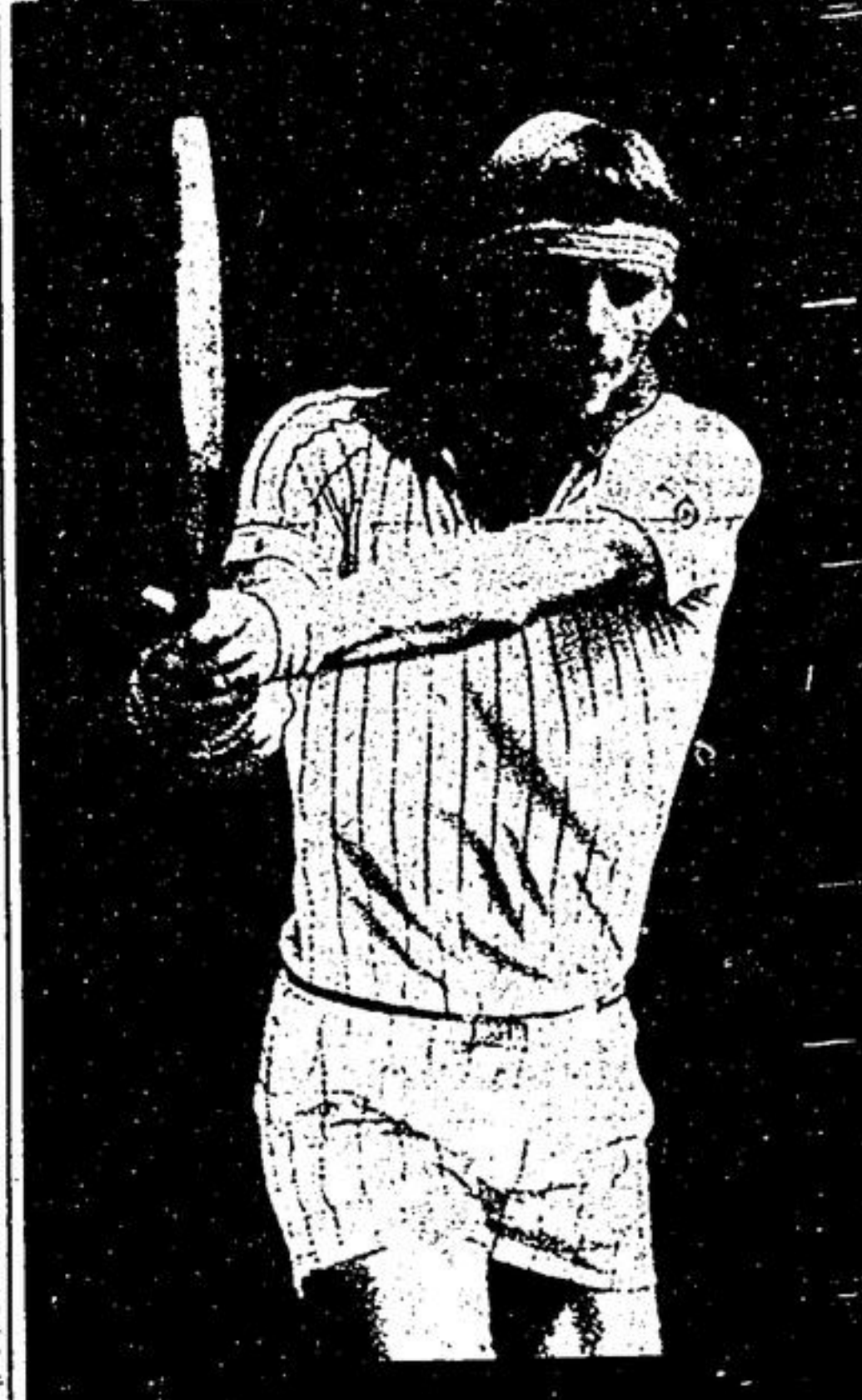
IGA **Hamburg or Wiener Buns** PKG. OF 8 **39¢**

P.F. ASSORTED, BOURBON CREME, GARDEN CREME, AFTERNOON TEA, ASSORTED CREME OR FRUIT CREME **Peek Frean Biscuits** 7-OZ. PKG. **49¢**

- DEEP 'N' DELICIOUS FROZEN DELUXE OR PEPPERONI VARIETIES 11 TO 12" McCain Pizza Subs **\$1.99**
- FARMHOUSE, FROZEN, BANANA, CHOCOLATE, COCONUT OR LEMON Cream Pies 12-OZ. PKG. **69¢**
- BLACK DIAMOND, PROCESS SINGLE THINS 8-OZ. PKG. **89¢**
- Cheese Slices 100% PURE FROM CONCENTRATE, FBI, UNSWEETENED 32-FL. OZ. BTL. **69¢**
- Grapefruit or Orange Juice 32-FL. OZ. BTL. **69¢**
- IMPERIAL, 100% PURE VEGETABLE OIL Soft Spread MARGARINE 21-OZ. TUBS **89¢**
- ASSORTED VARIETIES LADY PATRICKA Shampoo or Creme Rinse 350 mL PLST. BTL. **79¢**
- BONUS OR 50 ML. MORE REGULAR OR MINT Crest Toothpaste 150 mL TUBE **\$1.19**
- SOLID BARBECUE Zip Firestarters 17-OZ. PKG. **55¢**
- KINGSFORD Charcoal Briquets 10-LB. BAG **\$1.99**
- CHINET, 10 1/4" x 4" Paper Plates PKG. OF 15 **99¢**

- ASSORTED COLORS WHITE SWAN Facial Tissue PKG. OF 200 **67¢**
- WHITE SWAN Serviettes PKG. OF 240 **\$1.19**
- APPLEFLO, SAVE ALL Wax Paper Refills 100 FT. ROLL **69¢**
- ALCAN, 18" WIDE Aluminum Foli. ROLL BOX **\$1.29**
- WHITE SWAN, LAYETTE Moist Towels PKG. OF 60 **\$1.49**
- REGULAR JO'S OR SUPER TODDLER 2'S Babyscott Diapers YKG. **\$2.29**

BORG



Player's INTERNATIONAL Tennis Championships

Including: TANNER VILAS GOOLAGONG GERULATIS

Follow the action from Tennis Centre York University in Toronto on your local CTV station.

Friday, August 17th, Saturday, the 18th and Sunday, the 19th....

Check your TV listings for the time in your area.

Organized by Tennis Canada.

Daily tickets still available at the following locations:

- BASS AT THE BAY: Yonge & Bloor, Fairview Mall, Bramalea City Centre, Oshawa Centre
- BASS AT THE TICKET SHOP: Royal Bank Plaza, Thorncliffe Market Place
- BASS AT DOMINION STORES: Mississauga Square One, Sherway Gardens, The Don Mills Shopping Centre, The Yonge-Eglinton Centre, Burlington Mall, Centre Mall, Hamilton.

Events

- Each week, The Tribune publishes a list of events scheduled for the days ahead. Organizations wishing to utilize this service should call 640-2100 not later than 5 p.m., Friday.
- MUSSELMAN'S LAKE** - The Ballantrae and District Lions Club are holding a benefit bingo, Thursday (to-night), August 2 for Ed and Stephanie Morgan and family, whose home was destroyed by fire, July 17. The event begins at 7 p.m.
 - DICKSON'S HILL** - Aircraft flying demonstration at the Toronto-Markham Airport, Dickson's Hill, Monday, August 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., sponsored by Wycliffe Bible Translators. Rides provided by missionary pilots at three cents a pound. For more information call 640-2867.
 - SUTTON** - Sutton Fair, August 9, 10, 11 and 12, featuring horse racing, a fair queen pageant, a senior queen, horse-pull competition, cattle, sheep and horse judging, stage show and a Conklin midway.
 - VANDORF** - Antique and classic car show, sponsored by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Board, Sunday, August 12 from noon to 4.30 p.m. Admission, adults \$1; students and senior citizens, 75 cents; children, 25 cents.

- STOUFFVILLE** - The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce is holding an "August Sellaebation," August 9, 10, 11 and 12 with a bicycle yard sale, pancake breakfast, bingo, pet show, youth service and a Sunday morning worship service in the park.
- STOUFFVILLE** - Puppet Show, Wednesday, August 8 at 2 p.m., in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.
- BALLANTRAE** - Bingos every Thursday evening during the summer months at Cedar Beach Pavillion, Musselman's Lake, beginning at 7 p.m., sponsored by the Ballantrae and District Lions Club. Admission is \$1.
- UNIONVILLE** - The Unionville Junior Farmers are celebrating their 65th anniversary, Saturday, August 25 at the Markham Fairgrounds. The event will include a beef barbecue from 7 to 9 p.m. with a dance to follow.
- BALLANTRAE** - The Ballantrae and District Lions Club is holding a Steer Roast, Saturday August 18 at the Ballantrae Community Centre with live entertainment, children's bingo, hay rides, a corn roast and T-ball games. Dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at \$3.50 adults; \$2 children. Dance at 9 p.m., Admission \$5 a couple.

Editor's Mail

'I was shocked'

Dear Editor: In the July 19 issue of The Tribune, a story was published concerning an accident that occurred north of Stouffville. Accompanying it was a picture of the mangled car and its driver lying on the ground beside it.

In my opinion, a photo showing the car should have been enough to satisfy the ghoulish curiosity of the few. But was it necessary to show the broken, bloodied body of the victim?

I would expect this of a big city newspaper but surely a small town paper like yours could show more compassion for the bereaved.

This lady had lived in the Stouffville area for many years and held a job here until her untimely death.

As a co-worker and friend of Miss McBurney, I must say I was shocked and hurt.

Perhaps you, the editor, should have stopped and considered how you would feel if confronted by a similar picture of someone for whom you cared.

I hope that, in future, The Tribune will show more thought and consideration for people's feelings before using the misfortunes of others for sensationalism.

FAYE COLE, Uxbridge.

Memories

Dear Jim: The Front Page picture (July 26) of wheat harvest using the old pull-type binder, brought back many memories—fond memories of days gone by. Not so good, however, are my recollections of the hours I spent stooking the wheat by hand. That chore I wouldn't wish on anyone.

Wilmot Palmer, R.R. 4, Stouffville.

Praise

A tip of the hat to our Mayor and members of the Council for the stand taken re the use of beer at our Stouffville "Sellaebation" in August. It has been proven beyond question that the "high spirits" of this community are not dependent on alcoholic beverages. Enthusiasm and co-operation are the two important ingredients for a successful venture, as we found especially in Centennial Year and in numerous activities since; and hopefully into the future!

The Executive and Members of The Silver Jubilee Club

