

Eagles may soon disappear from our countryside

ART BRIGGS-JUDE
Correspondent

That eagles are not for everybody has been obvious throughout the pages of history past and present.

Symbolized by the early Romans and revered by the Indians, they were widely portrayed in myth and folklore as potential hazards to children and livestock.

And for every falconer that admired their strength of wing and talon, a hundred gunners and gamekeepers would blast them out of existence.

When Canada and the United States realized the dangers of DDT-type pesticides to eagles and other forms of fish and wildlife, these chemicals were banned.

However, Mexico and many of the third world countries did not do the same. While all factions of outdoor participants now realize the beauty and benefits of these majestic birds, there are still some uninformed or balloon-minded individuals who shoot them.

Today, the eagle is still held on its ancestral pillar in the spirit of most of the native people. Yet there are some band members, encouraged by the lucrative eagle feather market, who will co-operate with their unscrupulous white brothers to kill eagles.

Also in recent months the threat to the remnants of Ontario's original forest canopy so necessary for raptors such as the bald eagles has appeared.

If all the public were absolutely sure, the Ministry of Natural Resources' proposed timber management plan had seriously considered all of the components of the forest besides just timber when it was introduced, such opposition as the Madawaska Trust would never have surfaced.

No, eagles are not for everybody because they are free spirited creatures that insist on keeping at least one foothold on their wild domain.

The size of these large birds, standing about 30 inches high and having a wingspan of some six to seven feet, is in itself an indicator that they need a lot of room to operate.

Thirty-five years ago there were as many as 15 pairs in a 20-mile radius of the Rideau Lakes.

Today there may be as few as four nests in all of south eastern Ontario. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario suggests the current number of breeding bald eagles south of a line drawn roughly from the upper Ottawa River to the northern parts of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron may be as few as 12 pairs.

Markham firm wins 6 awards

Markham-based JHF Productions Canada Limited has been named winner of six Merit Awards in the 1988 Printing Industries of America Graphic Arts Awards Competition.

The event drew over 7,600 entries in 52 categories from printing and graphic arts firms around the world.

The announcement was made by PIA Inc., which is co-sponsor and co-ordinator of the 38-year-old program designed to recognize outstanding achievement in print communications.

"It is quite an honor for JHF to win these Merit Awards, especially when you consider the abundance of talent in the competition," said Bob Houk, PIA Chairman of the Board. "It truly shows that JHF has a winning team of people."

"JHF has proven that quality and a commitment to excellence are what make a leader in the graphic arts industry today," said the president and CEO of PIA, Ray Roper. "The PIA Graphic Arts Awards Competition seeks to recognize the accomplishment of the print communications team — every person who helped guide a printed piece from concept to finished product, and I congratulate JHF Productions for their award-winning works."

"Of course we are very pleased at this honor and think it reflects the kind of work our staff always strives to produce," said John H. Foley, President of JHF Productions Canada Limited. "The competition helps us tremendously to promote our service. When six pieces you've produced are judged against the finest in the world, and then each of those six pieces wins an award like this, it really makes a statement about the capabilities of your firm."

Yet the presence of a suitable nest tree in close proximity to water is not in itself enough inducement to cause an eagle to reside.

To accommodate the growing situation where eagles and humans conflict, a so-called buffer zone is set up. But just how other than by the topography of the land, a close monitoring system, or a chain link fence are people etc. kept out of such a sensitive zone? Then again, what if this buffer zone encompasses part of the lake? How do you prevent boat traffic from entering this buffer zone?

There's no doubt there are eagles for those interested in them in New York State and in Southwestern Ontario where they have been reintroduced.

And while bald eagles may be seen wintering along the St. Lawrence River, there's every possibility they won't be summer residents around Wolfe Lake north of Kingston much longer.

A planned 13-house subdivision near an eagle's nest in that area is waiting only for a change in the zoning by-law.



Photo ART BRIGGS-JUDE

Eagles are disappearing in Eastern Ontario and soon the sight of the large nests will also be a thing of the past here.

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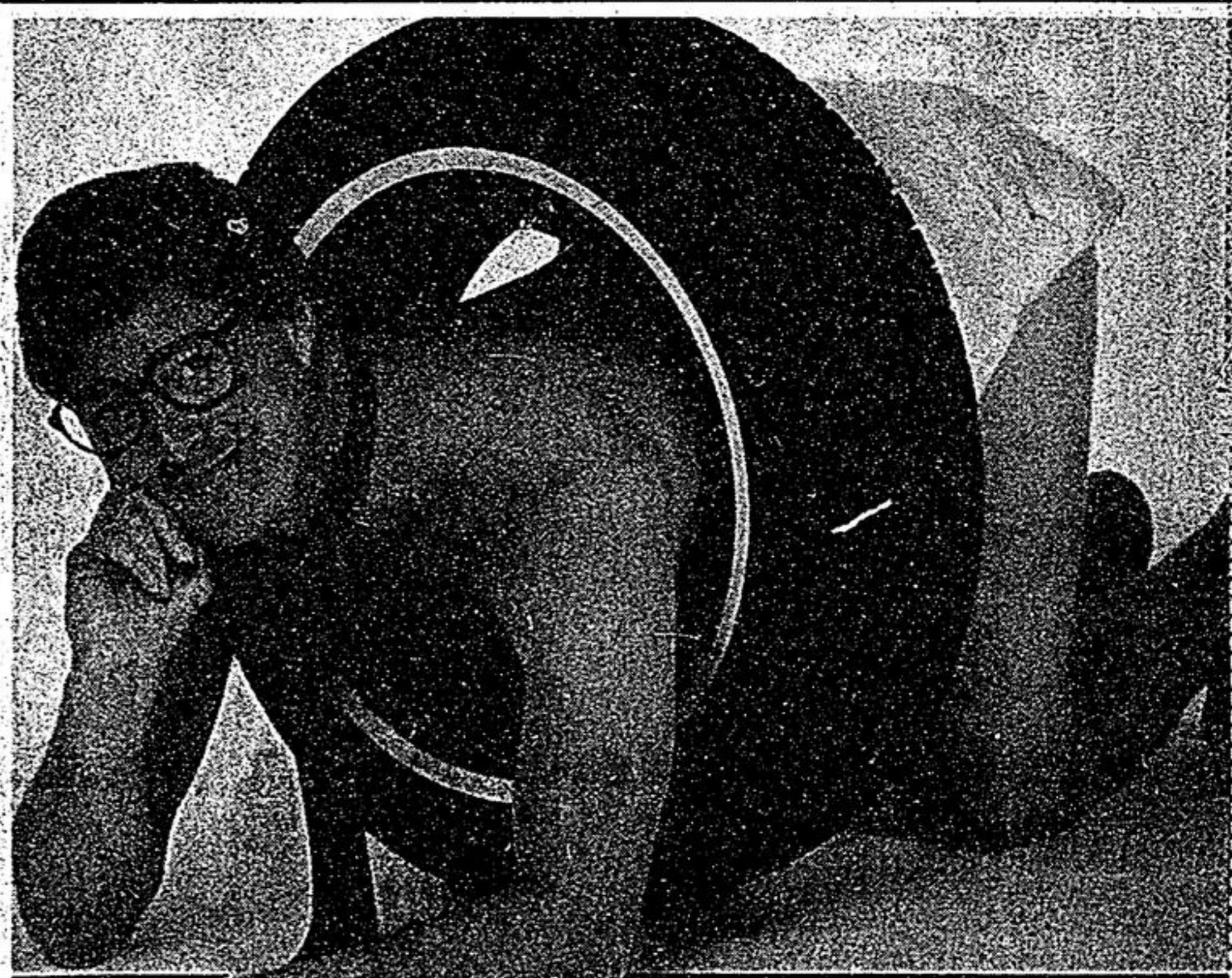
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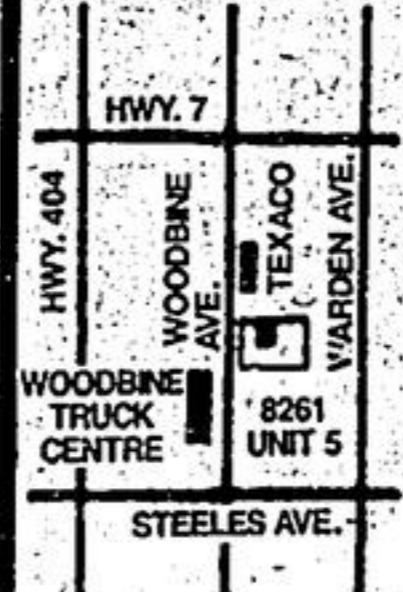
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