

# Perch limits on Simcoe, Couchiching

While small in physical stature as compared with other species that inhabit Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching, the yellow perch is regarded as a valuable commodity.

Each spring and fall, anglers are lured to these nearby bodies of water in search of these delectable delights.

But over the last few years, the Ministry of Natural Resources reports a dramatic fluctuation of yellow perch numbers in those lakes has taken place.

This does not bode well if these two bodies of water hope to sustain a healthy yellow perch population in years to come. As a means to protect these stocks, the ministry recently established daily catch and possession limits that are now in effect.

Resident anglers carrying a seasonal fishing licence can now keep up to 50 perch daily and retain a total of 100 in their possession. The proposal to create a daily and possession limit had been in the works for a while, but recently received federal governmental approval, said ministry spokesman Wil

Wegman. "There's been some concern with the perch numbers over the last 10 years," Wegman conceded. "Studies have shown the populations have been fluctuating dramatically. It's been up and down, up and down."

Wegman revealed the main reason in introducing a catch and possession limit was due primarily to increased angling pressure.

"There's been some concern of some people taking far too many perch, more than necessary. We've noted people are taking home coolers and coolers of perch."

Wegman added other factors including the introduction of exotic species like the black crappie, zebra mussels and the spiny water flea to Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching could also create unstable perch populations.



## Outdoors

Mike Hayakawa

### ANTLERLESS DRAW CHANGES

The Ministry of Natural Resources announced changes to the antlerless deer draw that could make applying for deer validation tags more convenient for hunters.

Hunters will be able to choose one of two different systems to apply for antlerless deer validation tags.

Under the first system, resident hunters may obtain their Resident's Deer Licence and enter the Antlerless Deer Draw by telephone by calling 1-800-288-1155.

The lines will be open until July 31.

Callers will need a valid 15-digit hunting version Outdoors Card number and a valid Visa or MasterCard. They must also identify which Wildlife Management Unit they prefer.

The second system allows hunters to continue applying by the traditional paper process through the purchase of a Resident's Deer Licence or Farmer's Deer Licence at any of the ministry's Hunting Licence Issuer Outlets.

These licences are available now. Hunters require a valid hunting version Outdoors Card before they will be allowed to purchase a deer licence.

Applicants should complete the form and mail it to the address on the back of the form. The form must be received by the ministry no later than 4:30 p.m. on July 31.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



## ERICA BROOMFIELD

Erica Broomfield claimed the title as the fastest senior girls' runner in the province recently based on her effort at the annual Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association

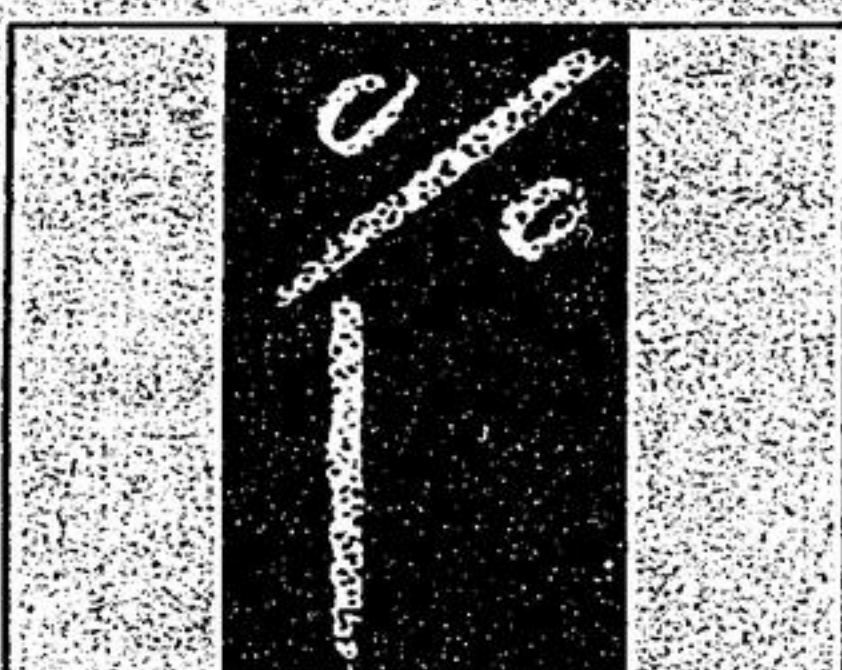
championships in Etobicoke. In the 100-metre final, the 19-year-old OAC student from Milliken Mills Secondary School was first to cross the finish line in a time of 12.04 seconds and staked her claim to this year's gold medal. When not running for Milliken Mills Secondary School, Broomfield is also a member of the Phoenix Track Club.

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