

# Don't pass up on good fall smallmouth action



## Outdoors

Mike Hayakawa

The lake was like a sheet of glass as we manoeuvred our boat in a methodical yet deliberate course parallel to the shoreline.

My fishing partner, former Toronto Blue Jays catcher-now broadcaster Buck Martinez, and I tossed an assortment of offerings towards the shoreline with the hope of coaxing a few smallmouth bass on a recent early Indian summer day.

With gin-clear water conditions being prevalent I donned my polarized sun glasses in the hopes of observing every minute detail of the goings on below us.

A scattering of small sunfish and minnows were cruising about along the weed-covered lake bottom. As we approached a clump of weeds that came to the surface, a smallmouth bass of decent proportion elected to come out of hiding in search of a meal.

Spotting the fish, my heartbeat began to pound a little louder and faster than normal. Instinctively, I quickly tossed my one-eighth once pumpkinseed tube jig into the water with the hope of placing it as close as possible near the unsuspecting fish.

As I watched the tube jig flutter toward the bottom, so too did the bass, which inhaled the offering. A small battle ensued and in the end, the fish, a three-pounder, succumbed to the boat and was quickly returned to its natural habitat.

Providing a live broadcast of my actions to Buck, who is rather accustomed to hearing commentary albeit

from a baseball perspective, it wasn't long before he switched baits. Trading a spinner bait for a tube jig and pitching it towards shore proved to be a wise decision as moments later he reeled in a nice smallmouth that rivalled my catch.

Before calling it a day, several more smallies found their way to the boat before they were live released. In all, it was just typical of what early autumn smallmouth bass fishing has to offer.

What's nice about wetting a line for bronzebacks at this time of the year is that they can be easy to catch, feeding actively before their metabolism slows down with the onset of colder weather and lake water temperatures turning over.

As well, it's not imperative to be on the water at the crack of dawn. Some of the best fishing can occur during the middle of the day when water temperatures, which have dropped since the summer, approach their maximum.

Potential early fall locations for smallmouths include shallow points or rockweedline areas, adjacent to pronounced drop offs.

### LESS AGGRESSIVE IN MORNINGS

During early morning periods when water temperatures are a little cooler, fish tend to be a little less aggressive in feeding. Focus in on locales where sunlight first hits the water.

Slow presentation baits like eighth-ounce tube jigs, four-inch plastic worms or plastic grubs, like the Berkley Power Baits or Phenix Baits, are effective under these conditions.

As mid day approaches and water temperatures rise, fish tend to be more aggressive. Under these conditions, try

tossing and retrieving, at various speeds, a crank bait like a Shad Rap, Fat Rap or Rattlin Rap.

Don't put away your surface baits, buzz baits, spinner baits or plastics that sit just below the surface, like the Berkley Power Slugs or Fin-S's just yet, as they can still entice a strike.

Factoring into the success equation is lure colour. Try to match the hatch. If there's an abundance of crayfish in the body of water you're fishing, don't hesitate to employ baits with a brown and

orange finish. If the fish are devouring minnows, then smoke-coloured offerings could pay off. If the fish have a fancy for leeches, try black-colored plastics.

If you missed out on the opportunity to fish smallmouths during the dog days of summer, now is as good as time as any to catch a few before Old Man Winter arrives.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



### GEOFF KEILLOR

Geoff, a winger with the Spirit of Stouffville, scored five goals and added two assists to help spark the team to three of a possible six points in the team's first three games of the season.

Keep up the good work, Geoff!

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**LAKE SCUGOG**  
North shore. Excellent 3 bedroom cottage - well maintained. Good shoreline. Large lot with mature trees. Call for appointment to view. Only \$119,900.

**"NEW TO MARKET"**  
3 bedroom brick bungalow on 95' x 180' country lot. W/o dining room to 2 tiered deck. Large rec room with natural gas fireplace. Workshop in basement with access to garage. Natural gas heating. Great location for commuters and close to school and recreational facilities. Listed at \$139,900.

**JUST LIKE GRANDMA'S HOUSE!**  
Quick closing, severance possibility, 290' road frontage. 3+1 bedrooms plus 1.5 baths. Large principal rooms. Large in-town lot (R2 zoning) with mature trees and English flower beds. Opportunity is knocking - call us now!! Reduced to \$154,900.

**LOCATED NEAR VALENTIA**  
Lovely 8 year old bungalow - Open concept with many features - 3+2 bedrooms - Hanover oak kitchen - some built-in appliances - central vac - Jacuzzi tub - huge rec room with airtight - 3 bathrooms. Well worth a look! Asking \$169,000.

**"WELCOME HOME"**  
is what this home says to you and your family. This is really in move-in and do nothing condition, offering 3 large bedrooms, country size kitchen with w/o to deck & large treed yard. All new windows & doors, hardwood under newer carpet. Abundant storage & room for the rec. vehicle. Across the road, access to Trent Water System. Location is the best and so is the price at \$194,000.

**PHASE II - SEAGRAVE HEIGHTS**  
New, custom designed and built 2,050 square feet. Spacious kitchen area overlooks main floor family room. Main floor laundry. Huge master with corner tub. Full walkout basement. 1.25 acre scenic lot with view. Pick your own colours. Asking \$239,000.

**WANT YOUR OWN BUSINESS?**  
Here is your opportunity. Modern, eat-in / take-out restaurant, high traffic volume - comes with all equipment including land and building. Call for full details and viewing.

**LOOK NO FURTHER!**  
When quality and acreage is what you have been looking for. This 2700 sq. ft. bungalow with a large eat-in kitchen, huge master with fireplace & Jacuzzi, formal dining room with fireplace plus a finished walkout basement, rec room, games room, party room, inground pool, modern barn, 1,000 dwarf apple trees on 92 acres. Won't last long at this price, \$399,700.

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH**  
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville  
The Rev. Robert A. Shields 640-1461  
October 5, 1997  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Church School & Nursery provided  
Everyone Welcome!

**VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
473-3543  
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.  
Pastor Robert Okum  
Holding forth the doctrines of grace  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School -  
11:00 a.m. - Pastor Robert Okum  
7:00 p.m. - Pastor Robert Okum  
Everyone is Welcome

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N.  
640-1163  
Rev. Robert Nightingale  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1997  
10:30 am, Morning worship.  
World Wide Communion Service  
Rev. Robert Nightingale  
Sunday School from Baby Fold to the Grade 8-level  
Everyone Welcome

**WIDEMAN MENNONITE CHURCH**  
10530 Hwy. 48 - North of Major Mackenzie  
Phone: 640-6219  
Pastor Lawrence Burkholder 294-0649  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1997  
10:45 am - Gospel Echoes  
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
Everyone Welcome

**STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
A Fellowship Church  
6273 Main Street  
Pastor - Rev. Gordon Bickle  
Asst. Pastor - Gordon MacCormack  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1997  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Message:  
Rev. Gordon Bickle  
Communion Benevolent Sunday  
WEDNESDAY  
7:30 p.m. Hour of Power  
"Wisdom Gives Wings to Knowledge"

**BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH**  
13660 Ninth Line  
(South of Bloomington Rd.)  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1997  
Pastor Dr. John Howarth  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Communion Service  
World Relief Sunday - This Stuff'll Kill You  
Cor. 1 Chapt. 11 ver. 27-34  
6:30 p.m. - Family program:  
164th Anniversary Oct. 19  
Dr. John Moore - speaker  
Everyone Welcome

**Springvale Baptist Church**  
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.  
887-5651  
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming  
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton  
Associate Pastor/Student Ministries: Brian G. Simcoe  
Interim Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton  
Visitation Pastor: Bill Smith  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1997  
8:45 am & Pastor Bob Flemming  
11:00 am Series "Getting Back on Track"  
10:00 am Family Bible School  
6:00 pm Gideon 10 Minute presentation followed by Pastor Bob Flemming  
For Wednesday program information, please call 887-5651