

No sure-fire way to snag freshwater version of 'Jaws'

My arm felt like it was going to come right out of its socket as I repeatedly tossed a huge wooden plug into the waters of the Moon River basin, giving it the odd jerk while varying my retrieval speed.

If there was any consolation to what seemed like an exercise in futility, that being not one bite to show for, I was enhancing my casting accuracy on a comfortable early autumn afternoon.

Approaching a rocky point with a steep drop off I let out my umpteenth cast of the day. Retrieving my lure, I thought it found the lake bottom as it refused to budge. That fear though soon gave way when the bottom began to move. The Berkley dacron line on my Abu Garcia 5500 level wind reel soon began to sing out in a soprano pitch. Fish on!

What grabbed my lure soon revealed itself on the water surface as a muskellunge came crashing right out of the water.

Though giving a good account of itself on the end of my line, the fish soon found its way to the boat where we took a picture, weighed it at around 25 pounds and put it back to its natural habitat.

Such is the day in the life of a muskie angler.

Although fishing for muskellunge was fair game back in June, autumn represents the best time in pursuing a trophy fish. It is at this time of the year when lake water temperatures cool down and these fish become more active.

Unlike other species, which can be caught with relative ease, enticing a muskellunge is not an easy task. Ardent muskie anglers can spend countless hours if not days in pursuit of just one strike from a fish that has been known to tip the scales in the 50-pound range.

There is no sure-fire way to catch the freshwater version of Jaws.

However, there are some tips you can follow that might work in your favour.

Don't overlook dropoff areas that are characterized by rock shoals and cabbage weeds. These areas will support bait fish



Outdoors

Mike Hayakama

which in turn will have bigger fish like muskies nearby.

Casting can be an effective method in areas that you are familiar with as muskies in nature are a territorial fish and will likely stay in a place where there's forage.

The time of day which you go out does not really play a factor. Some muskie enthusiasts note the prime time to latch onto a fish during this time of the year is anywhere from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is at this time when water temperatures reach their maximum and fish become most active.

The neighbouring Kawartha Lakes plays host to a good muskie population with fish weighing up to 30 lbs. But if you are seeking fish over 30 lbs., fabled big muskie waters like Georgian Bay or the St. Lawrence River system, which host more available forage, will play host to the big ones.

When pursuing muskies don't go about it in a spend thrift manner. Special equipment is the way to go. Your arsenal should include a 5 1/2 foot heavy action rod and with a reel that has the capacity to hold plenty of line, 20 lb.-test or over in either monofilament or dacron, which is stretch resistant.

Wire leaders at least 10 inches in length and with 60-lb. strength is another necessity to attach your lures to as muskies have razor-sharp teeth.

On the subject of lures, some muskie anglers say the bigger the lure the better. Ten-inch wooden trolling plugs or jerk baits are not uncommon. But don't overlook spinner baits or Vibrax Bucktail Spinners.

Muskie fishing can be a frustrating experience. But the more hours and days you put in should pay off in due time.

Chevy Trucks

LSS by Oldsmobile

AURORA

Oldsmobile

PRICES SO LOW They're Scary!

HALLOWE'EN SPECIALS CONTINUE

MALIBU

2.4 Ltr., 4 cyl., Air conditioning, ABS Brakes, Dual Air Bags, Special Rear Spoiler & Badging, AM/FM Cassette, plus much more.

NORTH POINTE

CHEVROLET · OLD SMOBILE

The Little Dealership with a Big ♥

Sale Hours
 Mon.-Thurs. - 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Fri. - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sat. - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

5336 Highway 7 (Just East of McCowan)
 294-1440 Toll Free: 1-800-892-2209
www.autonet.ca/northpointe

* Lease price based on \$1675 down plus freight & all taxes, lic. & ins. extra.

NORTH POINTE
 5336 HWY. 7
 MARKHAM, ONT. L3R 9V7

MR. SUB

FRESH THINKING IS WHAT WE ARE.

FREE

*8" Assorted Sub

*With your Purchase of any regular priced 12" Assorted and a Coca-Cola product

Valid only at participating locations in: Markham, Unionville, Stouffville, Uxbridge.
 Not valid on delivery orders or in conjunction with other offers or promotions. No cash value. Limit one coupon per customer per visit.
 Offer expires Nov. 09/97. *No substitutions please*

Family Pak

\$14.98

Receive: Two 12" Subs
 Two 8" Subs
 Four 355ml Coca Cola Products

*Subs limited to Assorted, Ham, Salami, Cheese, Turkey, Vegetarian and Pizza

Valid only at participating locations in: Markham, Unionville, Stouffville, Uxbridge.
 Not valid on delivery orders or in conjunction with other offers or promotions. No cash value. Limit one coupon per customer per visit.
 Offer expires Nov. 09/97. *No substitutions please*

COUPONS VALID AT THESE 10 GREAT LOCATIONS

MARKHAM
 5703 Hwy. #7 (west of Markham Rd. at Grandview St.)
 7077 Kennedy Rd. (N/E. Corner Kennedy & Steeles)
 5990 - 16th Ave. (Markham Rd. & 16th Ave.)
 9255 Woodbine Ave. - Cachet Centre (Woodbine & 16th Ave.)
 4471 Highway #7 (west of Kennedy Rd.)
 5000 Highway #7 Markville Shopping Centre
 8601 Warden Ave. Unionville Square (Warden & Hwy. #7)
 7710 Woodbine Ave. (Woodbine & 14th Ave.)

STOUFFVILLE UXBIDGE
 6162 Main St. 30 Brock St. W.

99¢

*12" Assorted Sub

*With your Purchase of any regular priced 12" Assorted and a Coca-Cola product

Valid only at participating locations in: Markham, Unionville, Stouffville, Uxbridge.
 Not valid on delivery orders or in conjunction with other offers or promotions. No cash value. Limit one coupon per customer per visit.
 Offer expires Nov. 09/97. *No substitutions please*

FREE

*12" Assorted Sub

*With your Purchase of any 2 regular priced 12" Subs of equal or more value

Valid only at participating locations in: Markham, Unionville, Stouffville, Uxbridge.
 Not valid on delivery orders or in conjunction with other offers or promotions. No cash value. Limit one coupon per customer per visit.
 Offer expires Nov. 09/97. *No substitutions please*