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RIBZ Front/Torso Pack

After receiving the RIBZ Front Pack I was a little skeptical if it was going to be of any use, having used a backpack for many years for all my hiking needs. Being diabetic I carry a fair amount food and diabetic supplies, as any diabetic can attest are a MUST while doing physical activity.



When I first put the pack on it was way too big, but after a few really easy adjustments with the Velcro straps, it was good to go. I started to put my supplies in figuring from the size of the pack that there was not going to be enough room for everything, but to my surprise there was plenty of room plus room for a couple of a small pair of binoculars, a couple maps and a GPS system. As well once it was packed it was significantly lighter and more compact

than the backpack I had been using.

As a side note, the trail I was on is quite challenging, and at one point I slipped and slid down the hill about 20 feet, the pack caught on a couple of roots and rocks but held up perfectly without ripping or tearing in the least.

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addition for anyone looking for a lightweight pack that is not intrusive.

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Camping With Kids

Fall forest fun and safety!

By Patti Sampson

It's autumn again; the leaves are changing, there's crispness in the air and your kids are ... playing video games?

After a summer of running through sprinklers, playing beach volleyball and catching fireflies, it may feel like it's time to wind down and get ready for winter but now is actually the perfect time to use the momentum of summer to keep your family active and outside throughout the fall.

Just because the air is cooler doesn't mean that the woods are closed, many summer camps operate until the end of October for school, community and private rentals. Some campgrounds and provincial parks stay open to mid October. Camping is a great family activity, even if it's too cold for a dip in the lake, there are still loads of things to do.

Tips:

- Whatever activity you choose, wear sunscreen. Just because it's not hot out doesn't mean you won't burn!
- Wear layers; this time of year can be unpredictable (as though every other season in Atlantic Canada is predictable!) but layers will enable you to regulate your body warmth, even if the weather isn't

cooperating.

Hiking is a great family activity; you don't even have to go camping to enjoy it, there are tons of beautiful trails throughout the Maritimes. Ideally the beauty of nature would be enough to entertain your children for a few hours, but let's be serious; in this age of constant diversions it may take a little creativity to keep them interested and engaged.

There are some great games you can play on your hike. They are also a great excuse to take a break; the first game allows you to get to know a tree. Break off into teams of two, one person chooses a tree, they run their hands over the tree, feel the roots, give it a hug to measure its size, do everything they can to get to know this tree. Then they go back to the starting place, close their eyes (or cover them if there's a chance of peeking) spin around three times and their partner leads them on a little walk around the area (very carefully!) then brings them back to the starting point. The blindfolded person must find their tree using only their sense of touch.

Another great game to play is



camouflage (it's better played with 3 or more people) the person who is it stands in the "middle" of a wooded area; they close their eyes and count to 30, everyone else hides as close to it as possible without being seen. After they're finished counting, he/she opens his or her eyes and looks for hiders WITHOUT moving from their spot. If it sees someone, he or she calls the hider's name. The last person left wins.

If there are two or more great hiders left, ask them all to stand up and the closest hider wins. The winner then becomes it.

Tips:

- When going into the woods, bring a first aid kit; even if it's just a little pocket kit with some Band-Aids,

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Hook And Release, Or Hook And Cook?

By Roland Michaud



For years now, many conservation groups across this country and even the world have been praising the benefits of catch and release fishing, and in many instances this is a viable option where a retention fishery could not be sustained. The problem that can happen with this great conservation tool is that sometimes a well meaning person angling in a perfectly healthy body of water can be looked at as a heathen or miscreant simply because he or his family wants to eat a meal of nice fresh fish.

My family has always been very active in fishing, hunting and, dare I say it, even trapping. When my father was growing up in the '50s and '60s, his family, like many others, was from a very rural and poor area. Angling was not looked at as a sport or hobby by him and his neighbours; it was simply a way to put food on the table. Every day he and two of his brothers were expected to stop at the local stream on the way home from school and using a piece of thread and a clothes pin (a hook was a waste of money and much too dangerous in my grandmother's eyes for someone so young) they would fashion an alder rod which would usually be good for one week's fishing. Using this crude equipment, they were expected to catch their limit of the five or six inch trout that were so abundant in this little stream. Two days catch would then allow their family of thirteen children and two adults too eat a nice meal of fish, instead of the beans you had the night before. If someone had told my

grandfather they went fishing simply to enjoy the catch and then release the fish he would have dubbed them millionaires. Only a millionaire could afford to spend gas money or even just the time to go fishing only to release the fish. In his eyes, fishing was the same as growing a garden or collecting berries, you did it because you needed food and you could not afford to buy everything you needed.

Now we are in the twenty-first century, and people who have to catch a meal of trout to feed their family are few and far between but some of us simply enjoy the challenge and gratification of eating something that we harvested ourselves. Have you ever gone out and picked wild strawberries to make a homemade jam? Personally, I need about three hours to collect enough of the little buggers for a decent size jar of jam (Lord help me if I want an entire pie). I could easily go to a U-pick farm and pick the same amount in about ten minutes, or better yet, go to the local superstore and buy a jar for about three dollars. It's not the same! I want the satisfaction of saying I harvested it myself! The same is true for fishing. I don't keep every fish I catch but I eat a lot of trout and salmon. Does that make me an ignorant redneck

who does not know better? Currently there is a lot of controversy about farmed salmon. They spread disease to our wild stocks, they attract major amounts of sea lice that again spread to our wild stocks, they can escape their pens and infect the true strain of wild stock we have out there. Everywhere you look there are bumper stickers or ads that say "wild salmon don't do drugs" or "insist on wild fish not farmed" but if I tag one of the eight grilse that the provinces fish biologists say I can keep without affecting the population, I am vilified by much of the angling community. What is the answer? Don't eat any salmon at all? My doctor told me I should eat more fish. Does that mean I have to eat Tilapia or Red snapper?

Certain bodies of water must be

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Hook And Release, Or Hook And Cook?

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regulated to catch and release only because of low fish numbers and as a conservationist, I am all in favour of this. It allows sportsmen to enjoy angling without putting undo pressure on the fish population but we must be careful where we implement this conservation tool and for what reasons. I currently take my daughter to a stream that my father and his family have been fishing for easily over fifty years. The daily catch limits on this stream have gone from twenty, to fifteen, to ten, and two years ago it went to five. What I don't understand is that to this day, when you drop a hook in the water at just about any part in this stream, you will see literally hundreds of trout swarm your hook. No one I have spoken to have ever seen a real decline in the population in this stream and another important factor to note is that after fishing it for over fifty years, Dad says he can probably count on two hands the amount of fish over ten inches that have been caught in this stream. Overfishing can't be the reason they are not growing because we would have seen at least some improvement when the bag limits were dropped. The real reason these fish don't get bigger is, habitat. The habitat in this stream is geared to grow lots of fish but small fish. Now back when the limit was ten trout in this

stream, lots of people would go fish here, catch their limit and go home. In effect they were killing ten trout. Now we have guys who are going for catch and release because they want to try to catch the five biggest fish they can, to take home. I have heard stories of guys catching eighty and a hundred fish in an afternoon before going home with five eight inch or so trout. How many of these released fish are dying? Studies suggest that 3 percent of properly handled grilse do not survive, but I was unable to find any studies on the percentage of fatality on these small trout. I would assume it is much higher and therefore these catch and release fishermen are killing just as many fish as they were when the bag limit was at ten. Is this a conservation tool? And who should really be frowned upon? The guy who kills five and takes them home to eat? Or the guy who spends all day catching a hundred and incidentally kills a dozen?

I do practice some catch and release fishing and I greatly enjoy it. I have absolutely no problem releasing two lake trout that are twenty inches long because I already have two in the cooler and that is all my family needs for this night's meal, but I will not look down my nose at the guy in the other boat who keeps all five of his. There is a picture in my Dad's office of my daughter holding up her first salmon. She was six years old and we were trolling on the Miramichi, she screamed, Dad I have one! When my wife went to help her with the rod I told my wife to mind her own business. My daughter fought that twenty-four inch grilse for about twenty minutes before I was able to net it for her. When we got back to

the truck I must have taken twenty pictures of her with her first salmon and my Dad proudly shows it off in his office. Know what the problem is? With today's mentality, you almost feel ashamed of showing the picture because everyone says we should have released it; well let me tell you, that one was "hook and cook". The whole time we were eating supper she kept telling us how she had hooked it and how much of a fight it had put up (I guess she forgot we were in the boat with her). It was the best tasting fish I have ever had in my life and not only will I not hide the picture, when it is finally my time to go fish those crown reserves in the sky, I want them to put a copy of the picture in with me.

I guess the reason for this long rant is this; we face so much opposition from the antis that we have had to greatly change the way we practice many of our outdoor sports. No longer can you put a shotgun in the back window of your pick up because the gun control people will eat you up. No longer can you tack your beaver pelts on the outside of the fur shed because the PETA guys will take you to court. No longer can you go around town showing of fyour buck in the back of a truck because the animal cruelty people will scream murder. The final straw is when we have to hide from other fishermen just to have a nice meal of fresh fish.

Roland Michaud is the President of the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation.

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Camping With Kids

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gauze, tape and gloves, it could come in handy.

- Practice “no trace camping”- you should leave a site exactly the way you found it (or better if the people before you were not as kind)
- Always take everything with you when you leave your site or hiking trail. If you're hiking when “nature calls” and you are nowhere near a bathroom, dig a little hole in the dirt, use “the facilities” and cover it back up. If you have tissue with you, then you should also have a bag with you. Don't leave tissue in the woods, or try to bury it, (it will just come up next year when the frost thaws) toss it in a bag and throw it out when you get the chance. Hey, we do it for our dogs; we should practice what we preach!

After your hike, you can make some crafts with things you've found along the way (on the ground, please don't pull things off of trees) you can make twig picture frames, pine cone people, or collect some beautiful autumn leaves to press and display –

maybe in your new twig frames!

Now that you've played, hiked, and crafted, what better way to end the day than to have a campfire? The best thing about a campfire is of course, the food! Most people are probably familiar with the campfire snack s'mores, but have you ever had a banana boat? It's a delicious alternative to a s'more.

Here's how to make the perfect banana boat:

Peel back a 1 1/2 inch (4cm) wide strip of peel from the inside curve of the banana (with the skin still on), leaving one end attached to the banana. Cut out and remove a wedge-shaped cavity from the length of the banana.

Stuff the banana with mini-marshmallows and chocolate chips (you can substitute or combine butterscotch chips, carob chips, coconut, Smarties, chopped walnuts, granola or whatever else you can think of — be creative!)

Replace the peel flap and wrap well in foil.

Place your bananas on coals for about five minutes. (You might want to check them periodically; when everything is gooey it's done) Don't forget to use oven mitts, they will be HOT!

Grab a spoon and enjoy!

Tips:

Teach your kids about campfire safety, some good rules to follow are:

- No running near the campfire.
- Don't throw anything in the campfire — just because it WILL burn, doesn't mean it SHOULD.
- Blow out flaming marshmallows, don't wave the stick around to put out the flame — trust me, getting a flaming marshmallow stuck to your forehead is not fun!
- And last, marshmallow sticks are not swords or light sabres (I know, I wish they were too) remind your children that marshmallow roasting is a privilege not a right.

Now that you've got the basics, get out there and enjoy nature in all its autumn splendour, and drag the kids along too!

By Patti Sampson, Communications Manager - The Camping Association of Nova Scotia (CANS). The Camping Association of Nova Scotia (CANS) supports the development and promotion of organized camping in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

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A Fisherman's Hell

By Red Everett

There I was in my hospital bed,
Gasping out my last,
And there it was,
Just like they say,
A bright white light,
And a sunny green meadow,
And an Angel spirit,
Who took my hand,
And led me down a path,
(not "up"),
Yes, "Down", she said,
"You have a few small sins,
For which you must atone,
And to do that, will take a year,
While you fish your favourite
stream."

And there we were at the starting
point.
I was dressed in all my gear,
My waders, my vest, and hat.
My favourite rod was in my hand,
And my best flybox in my vest.

We started off,
In just the same way,
As on the day,
When last I fished this stretch.

At the first pool,
The Angel said: "Remember",
How you hurried here,
In expectation of the pools below.
And there you cast out,
To that big rock,
And pulled back your fly,
A little too fast,
Without really trying the pool."

"Let's look below the water's surface,
To see the fish you missed."
And there it was,
The largest fish,
That I'd seen here
For years and years,
And just as it was ready to take,
I'd pulled the fly away.

The Angel left me there for a
month,
To make a perfect cast,
To that great fish,
That would never take,
Because of my fast retrieve,
And there I was for that full month,
Crying with every cast.

When the month was done,
She took me further down the path,
To my favourite of all pools.
But on the way,
She said to me
"Look at all the hiding spots,
That you overlooked
During the years and years of fishing
here.
See that fish, behind that rock,
And another over there,
Below the riffle.
Fish that would take,
Are always lying there.
But, you missed them every time,
In your hurry to get below,
And so, again, we'll pass them by,
On our way to your favourite pool."



So off we went,
Down to the bend,
To my favourite of all pools,
Where I'd spent,
So many happy hours,
Where again I was to repeat
All the casts of my last trip.

I opened my box,
Took out the perfect fly,
Tied it to my leader,
And made the perfect cast.

Again the Angel said,
"Let's look below the water's surface,
To see what we can see."
And there to my amazement,
Was an area, empty of fish.

Then she said,
"That's the way it's always been,
When you have fished this spot,
And that's the way that it will be,
For the next eleven months,
When you throw the perfect fly,
In a perfect cast,
To an area void of fish".

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The Plight Of Our Woodland Caribou

By Ward Samson



Our Newfoundland woodland caribou is unique to North America and I think we all know that they are in trouble here on the island.

This year for the first time in a number of years I have seen caribou along the side of the highway traveling from Flower's Cove to St. Anthony. I have also been talking to a number of people who are seeing caribou like they did in the early 90s. Let us not shout too loud in claiming that the caribou is returning like they did in previous years. We must be very careful here. Please allow me to establish some data that I have been able to acquire over the past years on the plight of our woodland caribou.

Our Caribou population on the island peaked at 96,300 in 1996, and since that time the caribou population had declined to about 37,600 by 2007 on the island. Our wildlife department has set a population of 24,000 island wide to cancel all woodland caribou hunting in the province. Then, at this current rate of decline, hunting cessation will happen in 2011 when the population of 24,000 is projected to be reached.

Legal harvesting is not the major reason for this decline but habitat lost and predation by coyotes and bears. Eighty percent of caribou decline is calf mortality due to predation and the major predators of those caribou is the Eastern Coyote and the black bear. Furthermore, a very high percentage of adult female caribou have reached a period showing low pregnancy rates and are now susceptible to a very high mortality



rate because of age. A review by COSEWIC of Newfoundland woodland caribou is scheduled to take place in 2012—if the trend continues that we are seeing, it seems very likely that COSEWIC will designate the Newfoundland (island) caribou “Threatened” and with this threatened designation will come a schedule of federal constraints under the Endangered Species Act. This will result in hunting being completely curtailed by the Federal government, if the province does not act first. COSEWIC and the federal government involvement will not make any provision for the restoration of usage of the caribou resource.

When hunting ceases, it is most likely that the general public will lose interest in caribou as has already happened with the Grey River and Avalon herd—for hunting purposes. This resource then becomes only something for biologists to tinker with and attempt to develop a recovery strategy. Government biologists have had this in their hands for many years and have been offered solutions but will not entertain those solutions. I have specifically asked for predator intervention and the governments' response was to establish a new predator license and workshops of how to hunt them.

The government's most recent response is they must develop new predator population modeling tools – a precondition for the commencement of any predator removals. This modeling tool development is not scheduled to be completed until later in 2010.



If we assume cabinet will approve, a work plan must be developed on the hows, whens and the extent of the removals and how to manage the by-products of removals and how to facilitate record keeping.

I trust that you can see from the schedule of events I have postulated; you should see that any real progress on any predator removal by 2010 is dubious at best. If nothing is done by 2010, we will have reached the hunting cut-off date before we get any action on the ground to deal with calf mortality. If you look at what I have written above, I have postulated that all caribou hunting will cease by 2011 when the population is projected to reach 24,000 animals and remember COSEWIC will review population dynamics of island caribou in 2012. This leaves us a very limited window of opportunity in which to get this done. Seven years ago the NLWF (Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Federation) presented this very scenario to the government but they would not hear what we were saying.

Ward Samson is a former president of Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Federation.

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The Purcell's Cove Conservation Lands

A natural oasis in the heart of Halifax

By the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

In many, if not most urban centres it can be difficult to escape and get back to nature unless you've got the time to spare and access to transportation. Living in the Atlantic Provinces, and Nova Scotia in particular, gives us easier access to the great outdoors. However, some of these retreats within city limits aren't common knowledge. The Purcell's Cove Conservation Lands are a perfect example of the urban oasis ... giving residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality an alternative to a walk in the park.

Close enough to the city that it's convenient, but deep enough into the woods to escape the hustle-bustle, the lands make up over 30 hectares of metropolitan wilderness. Located just off Purcell's Cove Road and bordering on Purcell's Pond and Flat Lake, the Conservation Lands are more than just picturesque, they're also incredibly ecologically significant. Trails framed by mixed conifer and developing hardwood forests that include Jack Pine, Black Spruce and Red Alder offer many options for hikers, or even those just looking for a casual stroll. And with diverse habitats ranging from granite barrens and headlands to undeveloped shorelines to freshwater bogs, these properties are a serene hideaway for wildlife too. White-

tailed deer, beaver and snowshoe hare are among the species that make appearances on this property, along with various songbirds and waterfowl for naturalists and birdwatchers alike to feast their eyes on.

On top of the rich habitat and rugged beauty, there's another distinctive feature about these lands; they're protected, forever. This guarantees that the lands will not only continue to be enjoyed by the public, but that their natural heritage will be sustained and unharmed by the expanding HRM. With constant pressure from rising development, especially in areas with any sort of coastal or lakefront view, properties like the Purcell's Cove Conservation Lands are becoming few and far between. Shockingly, over 70% of the entire province is under private ownership (a figure that includes 95% of our dramatic coastlines) leaving such properties at great risk of being purchased and developed, compromising their ecological importance and our natural history.

Since 1994 the Nova Scotia Nature Trust has been working hard to protect threatened ecologically diverse properties in efforts to sustain the legacy of our province's landscape through purchase, conservation agreements and donation. The conservation charity has protected over 5,000 acres of land scattered across the province—including the properties

that make up Purcell's Cove Conservation Lands. The protection of these lands came thanks to some generous donors. Two families came separately to the Nature Trust with the interest of preserving their properties, both of which had strong family history behind them. The first donation was the Captain Arnell Conservation Lands and later the adjacent Napier Family Conservation Lands, which helped to nearly double the size of the Purcell's property. Working together, the donors and Nature Trust deemed these lands 'forever wild' ensuring that no action causing damage to the natural environment is permitted.

Their 'wild' status doesn't interrupt the curious nature enthusiasts from enjoying the land though. Hiking, swimming and nature appreciation are encouraged as long as any activity remains low impact. The Purcell's Cove Conservation Lands are a reminder that there are pockets of wilderness nestled right under our noses and that we can trust in the fact that people are working with nature in order to protect the gems of our province.

If you are planning on visiting the Purcell's Cove Conservation Lands or if you are interested in more information please contact the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (902) 425-LAND or nature@nsnt.ca

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Coyotes

By Everett Mosher

The Nova Scotia government's decision to place a bounty on coyotes due to several incidents where coyotes became aggressive towards people, and even killed one hiker has raised many questions regarding this animal. At one time wolves were common to the Maritimes, yet had all disappeared by the 1880s. Into this vacuum came the coyote, but it was not until December of 1958 that the first coyote made its official appearance in New Brunswick, being killed on the Albert Freeze farm just outside Sussex.

In Nova Scotia the first confirmed coyote was trapped and killed during the winter of 1976-77. Since then these critters have spread to Prince Edward Island, and have even made it across the ice to Newfoundland where they are now creating major problems.

The eastern coyote is larger than its western counterpart, and is believed to have some wolf in its genes. There are reports of at least one coyote weighing 70 pounds, and that is a very large animal indeed.

Despite the bounty, coyote numbers are not greatly affected by hunting or trapping the animals, but rather by the amount of food available in their area. When food is plentiful, coyotes will have large numbers of



pups, and when food is scarce, much smaller numbers are born.

During the winter of 1985-86 biology student Larry Backman examined the stomach contents of 200 coyote carcasses turned into the Nova Scotia DNR for the bounty that was in place at that time. He found that in male coyotes white-tail deer made up 56 percent of the stomach contents while 23 percent were from snowshoe hare. In females only 33 percent of the contents were from deer, and 42 percent were snowshoe hare.

As to why in recent months coyotes

have become aggressive, we go back to not the last winter, but the previous two winters which caused a great many of our deer to die. My belief is that in early spring of 2009 there were a great many dead deer carcasses scattered throughout the woods due to the severe winter. These carcasses supplied large amounts of food for the coyotes during the breeding season and up until the pups were born, resulting in a great many young coyotes in evidence last winter. Yet by then deer numbers were way down, the winter was mild,

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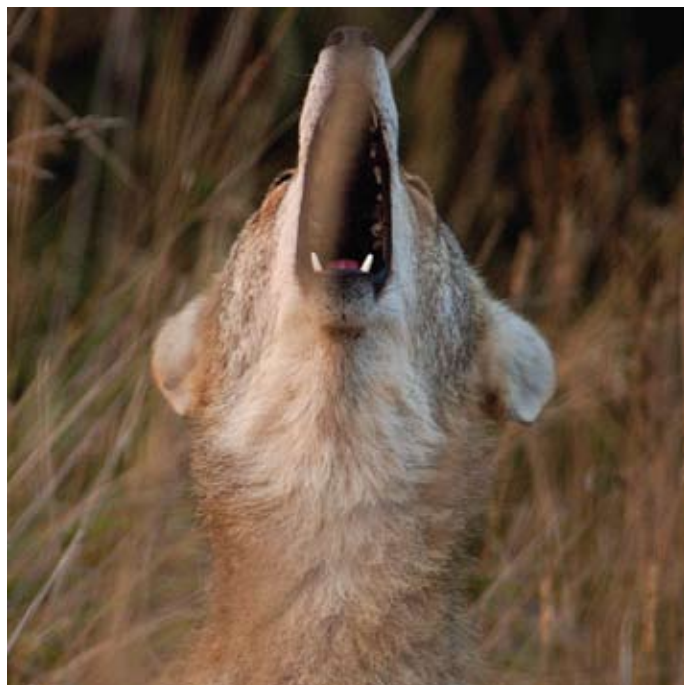
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Coyotes

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resulting in few deer succumbing to the winter, and, in most areas, there were very few rabbits.

The result: A great many coyotes close to starvation last winter, resulting in their getting up close and personal to people, and often coming around houses and cleaning up on any cats or dogs they might find. Although not confirmed, it's likely that the number of pups born this past spring were way down, and that within a year the coyote numbers will readjust to the amount of food available.

Coyotes are also very territorial, and will chase or even kill any strange coyote that ventures into their territory. Just as you or I can tell by the sound of a voice on the telephone which one of our friends or relatives is calling, I believe that coyotes can also identify members of their pack by the sound of their howl. The hunter can thus use this to advantage, and use a coyote howl to cause those resident coyotes to come on the run to chase away this new, strange coyote that is intruding on their turf.

Coyote hunters also use rabbit scream calls, plus a variety of other calls to indicate to a coyote that some other critter that they prey upon is in trouble, and thus easy to catch.

We should keep in mind that for every coyote bagged by a hunter the trapper will often trap or snare 10 to 30 times that number. After all, traps and snares are out there 24/7, and, in many cases, trappers will have 50 or more traps or snares in place during the winter months.

As for hunting the critters, many have success by putting out a dead beef or pig carcass, often in a field out back of their rural home, but within sight, and within gunshot range. One local rural resident shot 10 coyotes last winter by doing this.

As for regular hunting during the winter, suggested is driving the back roads at least an hour before first light, stopping every mile or so to blow a coyote howl call. If receiving an answer, mark the spot, and then drive on, trying perhaps a dozen locations before returning to the most promising at daybreak, and parking at least 300 yards downwind of where you set up.

Wear a white suit, complete with face mask, and set up preferably in an open field or clear cut where one can see the coyote approaching. Often they will circle downwind, thus a second hunter well downwind from the first will often have the shot.

Coyote howl call or rabbit scream call, it depends on the situation, and that is best left to the hunter at that time. Electronic calls also work, but when first turned on should only be

used at a very low volume. Don't over-call, and above all, don't move, because it is movement that most animals, including deer are most likely to zero in on as a threat.

In New Brunswick the hunter is limited to .23 caliber or less, with the .223 and the .22-250 preferred, but can hunt coyotes most of the year, while in Nova Scotia one can use their deer rifle until the end of March.

Hunting coyotes is a challenge as they are a very smart animal, and, due to their presence, we in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will never again see our deer in the numbers they once were before the arrival of the coyote.

Everett Mosher is a hunter/angler who lives in Sackville, New Brunswick.





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The Voice of the Nova Scotia Federation Of Anglers And Hunters

By Tony Rodgers



Members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters are suffering from a kick in the gut from our Members of Parliament and are experiencing an overwhelming feeling of betrayal.

The vote in the House of Commons on a Liberal motion September 22, 2010, to defeat Bill C 391, a bill to rid the country of the useless and wasteful long gun registry, was defeated and the blame rests with Nova Scotia Liberals and New Democrats who did not support the wishes of their constituents — in particular Mr. Peter Stoffer, Sackville Eastern Shore, whose 11th hour flip-flop turned out to be the deciding vote to retain the registry.

Voting 153 to keep the registry, to 151 against, means it could have been a tie to be decided by the Speaker of

the House if Stoffer had not changed his vote. Because he changed a position he held for 13 years I'm sure that Mr. Stoffer has become the new hero and poster boy of the Liberals, Bloc and NDP and the target for criticism from firearms owners across Canada.

We will now have to live with the results of the vote and we want to thank Member of Parliament, Candice Hoppener for her courage and conviction to bring this bill forward. But for the most part responsible firearms owners in Canada are hunters and as hunters we are patient people and we will wait and be ready when our next opportunity comes to get rid of the registry.

We have received some great news from the provincial government through Natural Resources Minister John MacDonell, about changes they have made to the wildlife act to help us enjoy hunting. Allowing .410 shotgun slugs and buckshot will have a positive effect in close quarter deer hunting situations. The use of camouflage blaze orange will get rid of the non-broken pattern orange rule that

use to exist, and a badge on your cap or vest is legal now. You can see the changes at www.gov.ns.ca/natr.

Most of the changes were a result of resolutions passed by the Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and supported by government. Some of these changes were housekeeping that DNR needed to do.

I can assure you that we did not support the non-motorized moose hunt in northern Cape Breton. We believe that this is doomed to fail and the government is setting itself up for a long week of problems, but I guess we'll have to wait and see. Hunters have got to know that if you win one of the 20 licences for that draw, you will not be able to use any motorized vehicle or equipment to remove the moose or yourself. There are very few horses in the area so be prepared to pack out your meat and trophy.

Tony Rodgers is the executive director of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. He can be contacted at tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca

Onset Announces Conductivity Data Logger

Onset, the world's leading supplier of data loggers, recently introduced its HOBO® Conductivity Logger, a high-accuracy, easy-to-maintain data logger that substantially reduces the cost of measuring conductance and temperature in streams, lakes, and other freshwater sources.

Ideal for monitoring aquifers for saltwater intrusion and road and agricultural runoff, the HOBO Conductivity Logger provides a number of features that greatly simplify maintenance and minimize drift-related measurement errors. For example, it was designed with a non-contact sensor that makes it less susceptible to drift than loggers that utilize contact, electrode-based sensors. The logger also provides open access to the sensor

for easy cleaning, and software based drift compensation using calibration points from the start and end of each deployment.

Onset's HOBOWare® Pro software makes it easy to graph and analyze conductivity data, and offers a number of features that simplify conductivity monitoring projects. It provides a choice of methods for easy, accurate conversion of conductivity data to specific conductance for various water types. The software also makes it easy to combine data sets from multiple loggers, and offers one-click data export to Microsoft Excel and other programs.

The HOBO Conductivity Logger offloads data to a PC via a convenient optical USB interface, which provides

high-speed, reliable data offload in wet environments. The optical design eliminates problems associated with failure-prone mechanical connectors. The logger is also compatible with Onset's HOBO Waterproof Shuttle, which provides easy and reliable data retrieval and transport.

Visit Onset on the web at <http://www.onsetcomp.com>.



Eight Ways To Reduce Water Use

Though this may be a nuisance, the truth is that 15 years from now, two-thirds of the Earth's population will lack adequate water supplies, according to the UN. A frightening fact, considering we literally cannot live without water. Per capita, Canadians are the second-biggest water hogs on the planet, behind the Americans. The average Canadian uses approximately 335 litres per day, while 1.1 billion people worldwide who are water poor must survive on five litres per day. Here are some easy ways to reduce your water use:

1. Take shorter showers.
2. Turn the faucet off while you brush your teeth, shave, rinse dishes,



or wash your face.

3. Replace an older toilet with a modern low-flush one.
4. Install water-saver aerators on your faucets and water-saver heads on your shower.
5. Go to a car wash that recycles

its water or wash your own car with a bucket and environmentally friendly soap.

6. Encourage water conservation at the office.
7. Resist buying bottled water. Instead, drink from the tap or bring a stainless steel water bottle to work that you can refill.
8. Since water is a global resource, help underprivileged communities conserve their water too. Build a rainwater harvesting tank. These tanks harvest, protect, and retain rainwater for daily use in places where drinking water is contaminated with bacteria and disease.

~www.newscanada.com

The Buzz On Bees And Wasps

When warm weather sets in, it's usually our first instinct to head outdoors – but then you hear it ... a soft buzzing sound that will instantly send you running back inside.

The panic that sets in when a bee or wasp buzzes nearby happens for good reason – they're dangerous. Reactions to insect stings can cause infection at the site of the sting, difficulty breathing and severe to deadly allergic reactions.

While both bees and wasps are beneficial to the environment, clashes with humans can happen if the insects feel threatened.

Bees away from the hive aren't likely to be aggressive, if left undis-

turbed. However, stay away from hive entrances as bees guarding food stores and young are much more likely to sting.

Though bees do sting, people often confuse them with yellow jacket wasps. Unlike a bee, which can only sting once, yellow jackets can sting multiple times. Over time, some people can develop increased sensitivity to their stings, with future stings becoming life threatening.

To prevent run-ins with bees and wasps while outdoors it is recommended that you limit your access to any water and food sources, especially those containing sugar. When picnicking outdoors, keep food in tightly sealed containers and cover pop cans as yellow jackets often enter cans unseen.

Think about other potential food sources as well – for example, regularly empty and wash garbage cans, which can contain pest-attracting residues.



Position flowering plants away from places you frequent, such as doorways, walkways, decks and mailboxes. Keep your lawn free of bee attractors like white clover and flowering weeds.

To prevent stinging pests from making their way inside, fit screens and tighten seals properly on doors and windows. Frequently monitor for hives and nests around your home, and call a licensed pest control professional immediately for treatment and removal if you notice one.

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Random Casts

Joe Aucoin and The Brown Bomber

By Don MacLean

In 1935, Joseph Louis Barrow, better known to boxing fans as Joe Louis was making a name for himself in the ranks of heavyweight contenders. It was during this time that he was given the nickname "The Brown Bomber" for his exploits in the ring. His drive to the top would culminate in his defeat of Max Schmelling in 1938, to become the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. While his abilities as a prizefighter earned him praise all around the world he would receive special recognition from an unlikely corner. In New Waterford, Cape Breton, a local fly tier, Joe Aucoin would craft a salmon fly, the Brown Bomber, in his honour.

Joe Aucoin worked as a miner during the 1930s, until an accident ended his days in the pit. With a small miner's pension he opened a fishing shop in New Waterford and began tying flies commercially. Like other early fly tiers from Atlantic Canada he was a pioneer in the development of hair wing Atlantic salmon flies. Aucoin's flies are distinguished by their very long wings as well as the long jungle cock eyes.

Aucoin felt that the long wing gave his flies a breathing action in the water. The reason for the long eyes was more practical. Aucoin used all the regular jungle cock on the flies that he was tying to sell, leaving only small or very large eyes for his own flies. When he found how effective the large eyes were he started offering them on the flies he sold.

Joe Aucoin's flies first appeared in Edson Leonard's 1950 book, *Flies*. In the book Leonard published a letter

from Aucoin in which he gave the story of his flies and said that "They had saved the day and the fishing trip for him many times."

Aucoin flies were also featured in A.J. McClane's *Standard Fishing Encyclopedia*; Joe Bates *Atlantic Salmon Flies and Fishing*, Dr. Grey's *Handbook for the Margaree* and more recently in *Stewart and Allen's Flies for Atlantic Salmon*.

The famous 1948 *Fortune* magazine article on Atlantic salmon featured Aucoin's bomber series as well as the Ross Special, a famous Margaree fly which Aucoin tied for "Nip" Ross of Sydney.

Joe Aucoin passed away in the '60s and unfortunately many of the patterns he developed have fallen out of use. As one long-time Cape Breton salmon angler told me, "Joe's flies are gone off the river." I still keep a few of Joe Aucoin's flies in my fly box though and give them a swim every season, partly because they played such an important role in the development of our sport and besides you never know, as Joe stated "They may save the day and the fishing trip".

The Brown Bomber

Tail: Golden pheasant crest

Tag: Silver

Tip: Yellow Floss

Butt: Black Chenille

Rib: Oval silver

Body: Brown floss

Hackle: Brown

Topping: Golden pheasant crest

Wing: Red squirrel tail

Cheeks: Jungle Cock

Don MacLean is a Nova Scotia biologist who writes on outdoor topics.

He is the author of two books, Discover Nova Scotia Sportfishing and A Little Thing I Tied Myself, Stories from Atlantic Canadian Fly Tiers.

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Gray Squirrels Here To Stay

By Ray MacLeod

Get used to seeing Eastern Gray Squirrels in Nova Scotia. They may have once been tourists from Ontario, but not anymore. According to an Acadia University Masters graduate, they have made the Annapolis Valley their home and are here to stay.

“Our belief is that the Eastern Gray Squirrel has now established a breeding population in Nova Scotia,” states Howard Huynh in a paper to be published in a scientific journal this fall. The report is the work of Huynh and three other students representing Acadia and Dalhousie universities as well as the New Brunswick Museum and the Smithsonian Institute’s Museum of Natural History. It states the animal is present and breeding from Windsor to Annapolis Royal, as shown by collected specimens he examined and anecdotal evidence from the Blomidon Naturalist Society.

Huynh says that Gray Squirrel studies from 1930 to 2004 mostly attributed sightings to escaped or released animals. That can no longer be considered fact, he states.

That finding is supported by



driveway,” Swinimer says. “Its eyes were still closed. I told her to put it back outside, warm it with a hot water bottle, and see if the mother came for it.”

When no mother returned, the squirrel was turned over to Hope for Wildlife. Swinimer says she’d known for a long time that a pocket of established Grays existed in that area. People doing wildlife rescue and rehab in the Annapolis Valley

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Hope Swinimer, director of the Hope for Wildlife Society, the most prominent animal rescue and rehabilitation service in the province. The proof, states Swinimer, is now scampering around a pen at her Seaforth facility, a Gray Squirrel that came to her this spring as a newborn from Coldbrook, Kings County.

“I received a call from a lady who was just home from work and found a little squirrel in her



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Gray Squirrels Here To Stay

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had been talking about them for many years, but this was the first time she received one.

Swinimer's big question is what she's going to do with her small gray charge. Because it has never seen another of its kind, it may not be releasable. If it is able to be set free, where? It is not at present a legal animal in Nova Scotia or any other province

The Eastern Gray is officially a non-resident, according to biologist Mike O'Brien of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. He says the squirrel's status has not changed for his department. It is still considered an alien species not established in Nova Scotia, and Natural Resources has in the past trapped out Gray Squirrel pockets in several communities. O'Brien believes any found in the Annapolis Valley can be traced to Canadian Armed Forces staff moving from Ontario to Greenwood.

There is a very major potential problem with a non-native species establishing itself, says O'Brien. Many animal diseases that Nova Scotia really does not want are sitting on

its doorstep, so any time an animal is imported, it brings with it a risk. Raccoon rabies is as close as a Maine ferry terminal, he says.

O'Brien's warning was true when Eastern Gray Squirrels were introduced to Europe. They are carriers of a deadly Squirrel pox virus which is a leading factor in the disappearance of European Red Squirrels in much of the British Isles.

Huynh thinks the Gray Squirrel's arrival in Nova Scotia may be a natural extension of its range. Originally a deciduous forest resident of southern Ontario and the north-eastern United States, it spread east and west as land use and climate changed. The Gray Squirrel is now established in New



Brunswick, with the Moncton area, just across the border from Nova Scotia, a recent hot spot.

Anecdotal evidence collected over several years by Jim Wolford, a retired Acadia professor now with the Blomidon Naturalist Society, was an important supplement to his animal specimen examinations, Huynh says. Wolford's records show reliable sightings in Wolfville, Kentville, Berwick, Middleton, and Kingston. The work of Huynh and Wolford is more than enough proof for Rick Whitman, Blomidon Naturalist Society president.

"As far as we are concerned, the Eastern Gray Squirrel is now an established species in Nova Scotia," he says.

Ray MacLeod is a freelance Outdoor writer. His first book, a collection of wildlife rescue stories, is due out in May 2011. He lives in Waverley, Nova Scotia.

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A Hunter's Creed

By George W. Langen

I wasn't born a hunter but became one at an early age, when I discovered the pleasure of lying awake and listening to the men talking downstairs. I can still smell the old farmhouse that never knew central heating, permeated instead by the aroma of wood fires, tobacco smoke, wet clothes, bird dogs and gun oil.

The men talked and I could almost see the alder bushes carefully watched by the setter on point. I could hear the whir of the grouse and see his line of flight and hear the crack of the little 20 gauge shotgun. I saw the brown puff of feathers wisp away on the breeze and the pride in the setter's eyes when he came back carrying the bird.

Long before I was old enough to go along myself, I knew about the sadness you feel when two geese come to the gun and only one leaves. That one will sometimes circle back in search of its mate, and with a lump in your throat, you don't know whether it would be better to shoot her or wave your hat and scare her away with the hope that she will find another mate another day.

From the voices downstairs I learned about the way a buck will stand so still that you can't see him all at once, but must look for a piece that doesn't fit with the surroundings - an ear, the bend of a hind leg - and then start putting the pieces together. By staying awake I could be taken wood cock hunting and learn how to handle a bird dog or I could gun the harvested fields in Nova Scotia for pheasants.

Many of us who hunt have similar early memories and I am sorry for those who never knew the pleasure of pretending to be a part of an older man's hunting adventures. You dis-

covered early that it was not only the shooting that made them hunters, but an abiding interest in an understanding of the animals themselves. The men harvested game in accordance with what the law allowed, and they further restricted when their own observations indicated declines in game populations.

I grew up aware that hunting led to outdoor adventures I would never experience unless I was carrying a gun. I wanted to feel the rain on my face on a cold day and set my decoys in a manner to attract ducks, and wanted to listen to the ducks talking and learn to duplicate their lingo with a duck call. I wanted to build a duck blind with my own hands and make it so much a part of the surroundings as to be invisible. I wanted to know the sound, smell, and feel of the woods in a storm when no one but a hunter would ever have a reason to be out there.

If I had not become a hunter, I would never have known the special affection that develops between a man and his hunting dog. The gun dog designed by nature to be a hunter recognizes the advantage of hunting with a man who can physically reach out and kill game: at a distance. The person who has chosen to become a hunter is amazed by his gun dog's ability to find game. The power of scent, so dulled in man that we can only smell dinner when it is cooking, has been honed to its sharpest among canine hunters. Consider the hound who can follow the invisible trail of footprints or the bird dog who can, even when running, sort out the scents of flowers, trees, grasses, and other animals, and stop dead when his nose isolates the single scent of a game bird.

There is excitement at the sight of wildlife in its natural wild environment. I have known the chilling thrill of having a bull moose answer my attempts to sound like a lovelorn lady moose, the forest erupting with a crashing sound, there is the rifle shot, and then the task of preparing the animal for the trip home.

As a hunter, I am a predator, which means that I eat the flesh of birds and animals I kill. For those whose meat comes in a plastic wrapper, don't be self righteous; you simply hired someone to do your killing for you, or before that, cleared the wild land so that beef could be raised instead of venison.

Only because I am a hunter can I comprehend the strange affection a man with a gun has for the game he pursues. Hunting is not a matter of wanting to kill something as most non-hunters often believe. It is a way of life which depends upon the preservation of wildlife habitat, of unpolluted waters, undeveloped marshes, and uninhabited mountains. As long as the environment permits game birds and wild animals to exist in reasonable numbers, my way of life can continue. It is not the gun that eliminates wildlife, only environmental changes can do that.

Because I hunt, I have at times lived for days in a tent miles in the woods, fried deer steak on a camp stove and invented my own recipe for partridge stew. Hunting has given me a special appreciation for wild things and wild places: that is an everlasting reward. My life as a hunter is enriched because I have a special responsibility to assess my role in Nature's scheme. As long as the wild places are not destroyed, I can continue to hunt. If I shoot to kill cleanly, eat the game I take and limit my harvest to what the law and my own observations tell me, my hunting fits within the scheme of things.

—An Anonymous Hunter.

George W. Langen was born in the town of Grand Falls in 1883, son of William Langen and Catherine Langen (nee Kelly). He was engaged in all manner of pioneer work, including guiding and woodsmanship on the Tobique River. His enthusiasm for outdoor adventure was born out of a love for wildlife and its environment. "Tobique Tales And Trails" was published by Tony Langen.

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Coyotes On PEI

By Bruce Smith



Some of us can remember there were only rumors of coyotes on PEI, but in the early 1980s the first one was snared near the Souris Line road. Although the coyotes gradually increased in numbers, until recently it was rare to see coyotes, at least in close proximity. I remember telling relatives who were concerned about going in the woods, or going for a walk on the Confederation trail because of a concern about meeting a coyote, that they would be very lucky to even see a coyote, let alone get near to one. Coyotes would normally hear people and disappear long before people saw them. The howling of the coyotes at night, seems to reinforce the idea that coyotes are nearby, and the similarity to wolf howling reinforces the fear that people have of these predators. It takes a lot to counter the “Little Red Riding Hood” stories that each child seems to learn. However there seems to be an increase in interaction between coyotes and people in recent months.

The coyotes on PEI are much larger than the coyotes of western Canada with ours achieving weights in the 25 kg area with reports of even larger specimens being harvested. It is thought that the increased size is the result of interbreeding with wolves as the species extended its range into the eastern United States and Canada.

The presence of these animals has resulted in many changes for wildlife on PEI and the changes are still occurring. It is probable that populations of many birds, especially ground nesters and small mammals have been im-

pacted. One change, which has been especially interesting, is the impact on foxes. The interactions with foxes occur in three primary ways.

Firstly, the coyotes no doubt will eat foxes. If coyotes eat small dogs and cats, there is little doubt they would eat a fox, so foxes have moved to areas where coyotes are not as abundant, which is often near human habitation.



Coyotes in general try to avoid human habitation leaving some “open” habitat for finding food and denning near human habitation available to foxes, but in these habitats the foxes are more subject to harassment by people and their pets.

Secondly, the coyotes compete, at least in part, for the same food supply. In the past PEI had high populations of some of the best quality foxes in Canada. Perhaps the large size, quality of pelt and population numbers were in part because there were few other predators on mice on PEI. The role filled by bobcats or lynx elsewhere in Canada was vacant on PEI. After the coyotes became abundant they no doubt competed for the same food

source. After the initial presence of coyotes, the foxes seemed to be fewer in number but some have suggested that the foxes are now adapting. As noted in the previous impact however, although the fox population may be lower, the foxes might have appeared more abundant because they were forced into habitats more visible to people.

Thirdly coyotes take at least some of the preferred denning areas used previously by foxes. The south side of dunes, in which it was easy to dig a den had been preferred denning habitat in many locations in PEI and have often been taken over by coyotes.

As mentioned coyotes tend to avoid people and at least until recently, this has been the case. It is usually a combination of factors that

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Coyotes On PEI

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results in the exceptions and the media quickly takes up these exceptions. Most trappers do not note much of a difference in coyote behaviour, if any at all. Those hunters I have talked to, who hunt coyotes with dogs, have not noted any changes in behaviour. Recent reports of coyotes stalking people walking the Confederation Trail, or stalking pets that accompanied the trail users have and the fatal attack on a hiker in Cape Breton National Park brought this danger to the attention of the public.

It appears that in some locations coyotes are losing their fear of people. It could also be that coyotes have learned to associate residences with potential food as some people leave food outside for their pets. A friend of mine always throws out scraps for the birds. These scraps might look pretty appetizing to a hungry coyote enticing them to stay near her home. Another friend recently called to enquire why a coyote would be up on the porch of his 85 year old mother's house. This was likely a case of a hungry coyote checking for pet food or scraps thrown out for birds, which the mother often did. Would these coyotes attack a person? Probably not, considering there have been only two fatal coyote attacks since 1980, but if they were surprised or cornered, who knows what a coyote might do. The frequency of bites by coyotes has increased in recent years.

On March 24, 2010 the PEI



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Atlantic Outdoors Magazine - Fall 2010

Wildlife Federation sponsored a panel discussion on coyotes which featured the President of the PEI Trappers Association, Carl Balsor, as

well as Randy Dibblee, the provincial fur biologist and Dr. Simon Gadbois, a coyote behaviour scientist from Dalhousie University. The common theme seemed to be that as coyotes find areas where they are not hunted or trapped, they become familiarized to humans and no longer consider us as a threat. The panel noted that some people feed coyotes and a few have even raised coyotes as pets. The problem is that the coyotes can't be trusted and when they become too aggressive people kick them out. These coyotes have no fear of people and associate humans with food. Simon also speculated that the recent increase in coyote interaction might be related to coyotes being hungry because of low numbers of prey resulting from natural population cycles.

What can or should we be doing? Avoid leaving any food out for pets, which the coyotes might eat. This will reduce the interaction with humans and especially reduce the association between people and food. As well, reporting any coyotes that seem to have lost their fear of people to conservation officials will identify where problem animals are located.

Keeping coyotes at bay seems to be a strong rationale for allowing



hunting and trapping. Protected areas such as parks or large municipal buffers where these activities are not permitted seem to draw coyotes. It is in municipalities in both the USA and Canada where interactions involving aggression have increased in recent years. When coyotes are hunted they soon learn to stay a long distance from people. One friend of mine who is an active coyote hunter noted he saw no hint of coyotes in his area becoming bolder. Carl Balsor noted that in his trapping area, coyotes were so afraid of his scent that they would not even cross his tracks. Keeping this fear of humans needs to be reinforced if aggressive interactions by coyotes are to be kept at a minimum. Purposefully feeding them, which has been reported only reduces the fear of people.

In conclusion the coyote problems seem to reinforce the importance of avoiding activities that might encourage coyotes to come near people, and highlight the importance of maintaining an active trapping industry and hunting pursuits in our province.

Bruce Smith is the President of the PEI Wildlife Federation

2010 Fall Black Bear Hunting in Nova Scotia

By Ian Avery

2010 will be the first year Nova Scotia hunters can participate in the Fall Black Bear Hunting Season with their trusty crossbow. The season runs from September 13, Until December 04, 2010. No hunting on Sundays.

Prior to your first trip to the stand this year with your crossbow, be sure to think about these tips to make sure that you have a safe trip. After all, a safe trip can lead to a successful hunt.

- Inspect your hunting crossbow to make sure that everything is in proper working condition.
- Use crossbow arrows that are made for your type of crossbow and support the draw length and draw weight of that crossbow.
- Always keep the safety 'on' and keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to release your arrow.
- To prevent injury to yourself, be sure to keep your fingers below the travel path of the bow string and cables.
- Inspect your shooting area to make sure that your bow limbs are free from any obstruction. If you are in a tree stand, be sure that there are no tree

branches that will impede your shot.

- The safe hunting range for the crossbow is 40 yards and closer. Be sure to stay within this range to make sure that you maintain the effectiveness of this piece of bow hunting equipment.
- Practice! Practice! Practice!

Knowing your crossbow and spending plenty of time practicing will ensure that you are ready to go for your next hunting trip.

Almost by default, a crossbow hunter who practices regularly will be a safer hunter too. Don't forget your safety harness as well. Make sure it is in good working order, no broken buckles or straps. Hunt safe and hunt smart.

Good luck to all the bear hunters this year, especially the crossbow hunters!



The Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters is dedicated to the promotion and safety of crossbow hunting within the province of Nova Scotia. The NSACH will focus on uniting a productive fraternity of dedicated individuals from across NS to educate DNR, legislatures and the general public about crossbow hunting and its positive attributes as applied to modern hunting and effective game management.



*Black Bear photos from Neil Green
Crossbow photo from Ian Avery*



Congratulations To The Village Of Balmoral!

By the Government of Canada

During the annual general meeting of the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFMNB), Balmoral's successes were recognized as one of the 2009 recipients of the Roy Consultants Innovative Municipality Award.

An example of the village's success is a major wind energy initiative and the creation of the Société éolienne du Restigouche (Wind Society of

Restigouche). This initiative created a partnership between the villages of Balmoral, Charlo, Eel River Crossing, and the town of Dalhousie.

The Government of Canada understands the importance of rural communities working together to deal with the challenges they face in today's harsh economic times. Through Canada's Rural Partnership, the Canadian Government

encourages rural Canadians to take full advantage of what their regions have to offer.

This rural community of 1,700 residents, located at the north-central tip of New Brunswick, sees real benefits for sharing information and pooling resources with neighbouring areas so that the overall region becomes a vibrant place where people want to live and work!

A River Runs Through It ...

By the Government of Canada

Nothing unites a community more than its watershed and the land around it. The Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) is a good example of how Canada's rural communities are taking matters into their own hands to ensure waterways remain healthy and they can get the most out of their land.

Scientists first approached communities in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia with their concerns over the human impact on Canada's waterways in the late 1980s.

The Annapolis River watershed covers 2,000 sq km and is the third largest in Nova Scotia. CARP works on a variety of watershed issues ranging from riverbank protection, fish habitat restoration, water monitoring and climate change.

CARP's vision is simple: An ecologically healthy Annapolis River watershed. This clear-cut vision relies on the involvement and buy-in of an entire community — farmers and



fishers, industrialists and the general population. Partnerships have been key to the organization's success. Those who use the land to earn a living are also willing to work with the organization. Often, using more environmentally friendly methods actually translates into dollars for people who use the land around a watershed commercially. One farmer who wanted to extend his pasture closer to the river, worked with CARP on a more environmentally friendly way of ploughing and planting new

crops, which proved to be more cost effective for him.

Groups like CARP are a testament to the efficiency and value of non-government organizations. Currently, there are 16 groups similar to CARP in Atlantic Canada.

More information is available at: ACAP www.atl.ec.gc.ca, CARP www.annapolisriver.ca

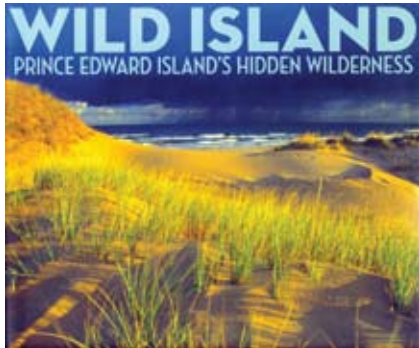


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Books Of Interest

Wild Island: Prince Edward Island's Hidden Wilderness

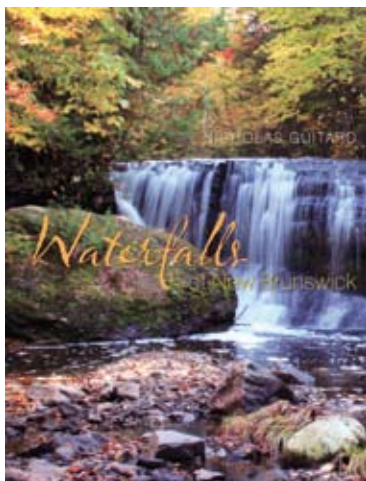


By John Sylvester

Award-winning photographer John Sylvester gathers fragments of Prince Edward Island's "wild things", presenting a picture of the Island as it might have appeared before permanent settlement and inspiring readers to explore the Island's natural areas for themselves. A portion of the royalties are being donated to Island Nature Trust.

ISBN: 978-1894838, hard cover, \$32.95 Acorn Press.

Waterfalls of New Brunswick A Guide

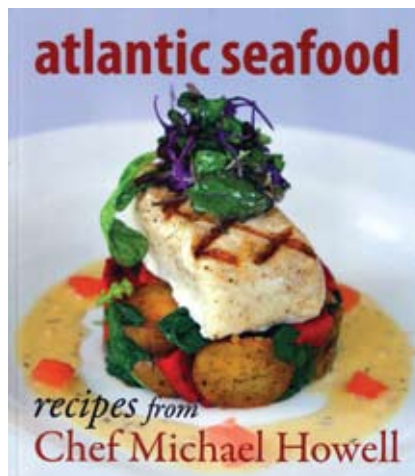


By Nicholas Guitard

Whether you are an avid outdoors person wanting a challenge or a family looking for a weekend outing, New Brunswick has a waterfall waiting for you. This book is the waterfall travel guide, with directions to more than 100 waterfalls throughout the province. Some may be visible from the highways and byways, and others may be reached by hiking on an established trail, and a few may require a strenuous journey through the wilderness. Designed to make the experience as enjoyable as possible, this pocket guide provides readers with comprehensive directions, maps and photographs to help find these natural wonders.

ISBN: 978-0-86492-615-9, soft cover, \$19.95, Goose Lane Editions.

Atlantic Seafood



Recipes from Chef Michael Howell

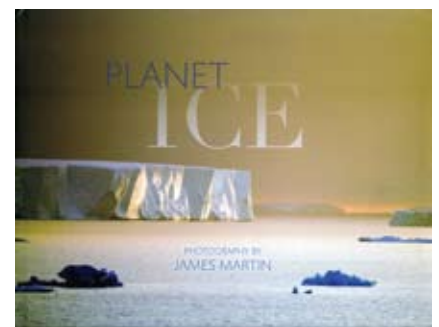
For those of us who live near the Atlantic Ocean, a gathering of family and friends over a freshly caught, perfectly grilled fish is second nature.

Here, seafood is more than just a preference, it is a way of life.


Drawing from over 20 years of experience as a professional chef in Chicago, Staten Island, Boston, and the Bahamas, Nova Scotia native Chef Howell brings delicious twists to Atlantic seafood in his recipes. The book is organized by seafood type, so finding the right recipe is a breeze. An additional section on sustainable and ethical food choices helps readers make the right choices when it come to buying Atlantic fish and shellfish. A must-have for any seafood enthusiast! Includes special instructions for sauces and stocks. Types of seafood include: char, clams, crab, haddock, halibut, lobster, mackerel, monkfish, mussels, oysters, salmon, salt cod, scallops, shrimp, smoked seafood, sole, squid, sturgeon, swordfish and tuna.

ISBN: 978-155109-728-2, soft cover, \$24.95, Nimbus Publishing.

Planet Ice



Continued on page 25...

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Books Of Interest

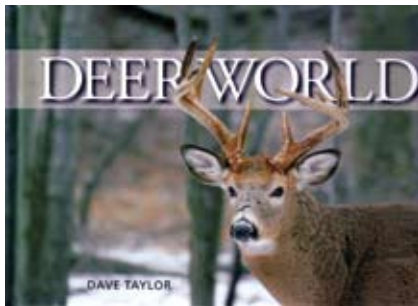
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Photography by James Martin

Planet Ice documents and celebrates the beauty and the power of ice and its unique role in revealing the changing condition of the planet. Glaciers and icefields are critical to the health of our world, and we are making them disappear. This book explores human concepts of ice and wilderness; the far-reaching effects of climate change on people and wildlife including penguins and polar bears and fauna that depend on ice; and our responsibility as stewards of the natural world. Ice and climate interact and profoundly influence ecosystems and human civilizations, and we are altering that ancient balance.

ISBN: 978-1-59485-085-1, hard cover, \$39.95, Braided River.

Deer World



By Dave Taylor

Deer can be found in nearly every natural habitat of North America.

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The ubiquitous white-tailed deer are North America's most abundant deer. There are perhaps 19 million of them roaming the woods, farmlands and rural areas. There may well be more whitetails today than there were when Columbus first came to the New World over 500 years ago. Cousins of the white-tailed deer – caribou, elk, mule deer, moose, and black tailed deer, fill out the rest of the continent.

This book provides naturalists, wildlife enthusiasts and sportsmen with a rare inside look at how seasonal events affect each species, by following a variety of deer through a typical year. Beautiful photographs are accompanied by surprising facts and insights such as: antlers are the fastest growing bones in nature - growing up to half an inch a day; Texas is home to the largest deer population south of Canada; a healthy deer is so well insulated that snow will not melt when it lands on its body; in national parks, bull elk and bison kill or injure far more people than do bears or cougars; and elk populations in northern Michigan are so high, many are relocating to Canada.

ISBN: 978-1-55046-501-3, hard cover, \$39.95, The Boston Mills Press.

Wild Nova Scotia

Photography by Len Wagg, text by Bob Bancroft

From the craggy rocks of Cape Split to the peaceful lake in Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia's wilderness is diverse and stunning.

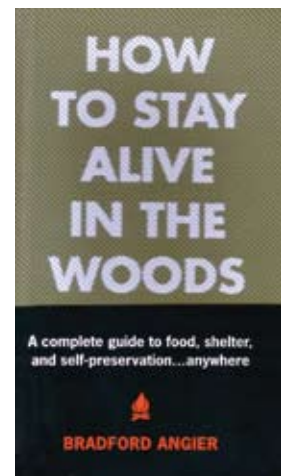


Wild Nova Scotia
Photography by Len Wagg
Text by Bob Bancroft

And fortunately for the nature lover, thirty-three of the province's wildest places are designated Wilderness Areas, protected from harmful human activity. The vivid, lush and evocative photographs in this book give a true sense of the wilderness experience, reminding us how precious our wild places are, and how important it is to protect them.

ISBN: 978-1-55109-613-1, hard cover, \$29.95, Nimbus Publishing.

How To Stay Alive in the Woods



By Bradford Angier

Anyone at anytime can suddenly find themselves dependent on their own resources for survival. It costs very little time, money and effort to

Continued on page 26...

Books Of Interest

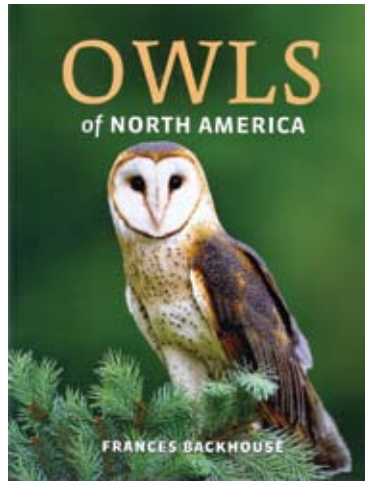
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be ready for such an emergency. If you are not ready, it may cost your life.

This book is a practical, readable and potentially indispensable manual for anyone venturing into the great outdoors. It includes how to find food, navigate the wilderness, stay warm, make shelter, signal for help and treat wounds and illness.

The wilderness is too big to fight. Yet for those of us who will take advantage of what it freely offers, nature will furnish every necessity.

ISBN: 978-1-57912-221-8, hard cover, \$29.95, Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers.



By Frances Backhouse

Owls are almost everywhere. They populate almost every continent and survive in everything from arid desert, to arctic tundra, to

dense rain forest. Superbly designed birds of prey, owls are equipped with highly effective tools for killing and dismembering their prey: strong feet with curved, stiletto-like talons and a sturdy hooked bill with razor-sharp cutting edges.

What makes owls unique is that most of them hunt in darkness from dusk to dawn using their keen hearing, enhanced low-light vision and the sound-muffling structures on their feathers for silent flight.

This beautifully illustrated book covers the characteristics and behaviours of all 23 species of North American owls.

ISBN: 978-1-55407-342-9, hard cover, \$34.95, A Firefly Book.

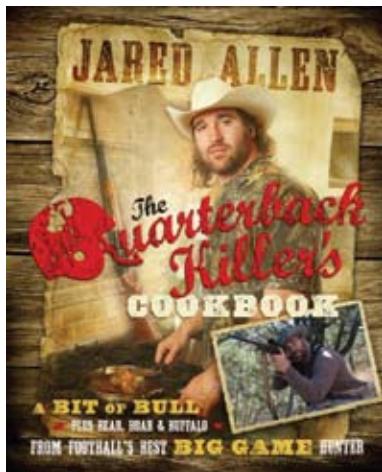
Owls of North America

NFL Star Defensive End, Jared Allen, Turns Up the Heat with an Adventurous New Cookbook, Built for a Man's Man

"The Quarterback Killer's Cookbook," Delves into Over 30 Outdoor Inspired Recipes with Creative Entrees Such As Rattlesnake Croquette, Northern Braised Bear, and Ostrich Steaks

Minnesota Vikings relentless defensive end, Jared Allen, joins forces with notable Arizona chef, Aaron May, to give readers a "taste" of the great outdoors. Constructed for the avid outdoorsman, "The Quarterback Killers Cookbook" features great hunting tales from Jared's many expeditions mixed in with 30 sophisticated and easy to make wild game recipes. It was released nationwide September 21st, 2010, "The Quarterback Killer's Cookbook" will be made available online at [\[killer69.com\]\(http://killer69.com\)](http://www.qb-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Published by Game Day Sports, "The Quarterback Killers Cookbook" offers over 100 pages of delicious and unconventional recipes weaved in with Jared's first hand tales of hunting and his love for the great outdoors. Readers will enjoy eccentric cuisines from "Jared's favorite pheasant nuggets with country gravy," "wild boar ragu with fettuccini" and "rattlesnake croquette" to simple meal ideas such as "fish tacos with salsa fresca" and "trout with almonds and herbs."



Chef Aaron May provides his cooking expertise by smoothly combining untraditional ingredients in a familiar, tasty way.

Jared Allen entered the NFL in the 2004 draft as the fifth round pick for the Kansas City Chiefs. The three-time Pro Bowler and All Pro selectee was acquired in 2008 by the Minnesota Vikings as the highest paid defensive end in the NFL. He was appropriately nicknamed "The Quarterback Killer" for his ability to break through blockers and sack quarterbacks with ease.

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Hunters Vs. Hunters (Crossbows In New Brunswick)

By Ron Whitehead

At the Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation (NBWF) in April of 2010, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Wally Stiles announced that crossbows would become legal for hunting in the Province.

This announcement was the direct result of a resolution requesting that crossbows be permitted when hunting all game in the Province by the NBWF in 2008. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had been studying this issue for a number of years since New Brunswick was one of the last provinces in Canada to allow crossbows.

Across Canada and throughout the U.S. opposition to the use of crossbows has come primarily from bow hunters although this is difficult to understand. Why the opposition? I did some investigating and found that even here in N.B. the bow hunters were strongly opposed to crossbows. I checked out the website of the Bow Hunters of New Brunswick (BONB) and was startled at some of the things that I read.

On the BONB website I read the following;

- bowhunters are held to a higher standard than any other form of hunter in terms of morals and ethics;
- crossbowscouldmorethandoublethe number of hunters participating;
- crossbows give out of the box accuracy;

- crossbows require little or no practice;
- crossbow hunters could result in overcrowding of public land;
- crossbowmen are not petitioning for change;
- crossbows have twice the effective range of bows;
- crossbow manufacturers are asking for crossbows.

These statements are amazing and most are basically untrue. Why would bowhunters be held to higher moral standards than other hunters? Does this mean that the morals of gun hunters are lower? Why do bowhunters seem to think that they are the elite of all hunters?

If crossbows do double the number of hunters then I for one will certainly be happy. One of the goals and objectives of the NBWF is to increase hunter participation and increase hunting opportunities. We all know that right across Canada, with a few exceptions, the number of hunters has decreased dramatically since the 1980s. In NB we had 100,000 plus deer hunting licences sold during the 1980s which has dropped to approximately 50,000 in 2009.

In other Provinces and States where crossbows have been legalized the number of hunters did not increase significantly. The majority of those taking up crossbow hunting are rifle hunters looking for a new challenge and even more are actually bow hunters. Many of these hunters do not totally abandon rifle or bowhunting and continue hunting with rifles and vertical bows on occasion.

I own and shoot a "top of the line" crossbow and a close friend has a compound bow. We have shot them

together and actually he shoots better than I do at 30 and 40 yards. At 10 and 20 yards we are almost equal. Most crossbows are heavy to hold during arms length shooting and most crossbow hunters require a steady rest to shoot accurately beyond 20 yards. To say crossbows require no practice is erroneous. One could say this about a rifle but those who do not practice usually don't shoot well. Even if this was a true statement why would this be a concern? The objective is to kill the game the hunter is seeking quickly, efficiently and effectively.

"Crossbow hunters could result in overcrowding of public land." Another incredible statement. DNR tells us that approximately 80% of all deer harvested are taken on private land so why would crossbow hunters overcrowd public/crown land?

"Crossbowmen are not petitioning for change" and "Crossbow manufacturers are asking for crossbows." So-called crossbowmen are petitioning for crossbows. In fact I am personally the author of the resolution that was presented to the DNR by the President of the NBWF. Since crossbows are not yet legal in the Province there are not many owners or shooters but this is changing quickly. Crossbow manufacturers may certainly be in favour of crossbows in the Province but they did not make any proposals at all to DNR in this regard. I personally contacted a well known Canadian crossbow manufacturer and the company sent one of their representatives to give the NBWF a demonstration.

I am not at all against bowhunters, their equipment or methods, but I wonder why the compound hunters

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Safe Passage: Natural Super Highways For Wildlife

By Gillian Woolmer

Wildlife in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is increasingly at risk as land is rapidly being converted to a patchwork of human uses, such as roads, new houses, and forestry. As a result, wildlife may eventually become isolated and restricted to liv-

provide wildlife with the room they need to survive, both today and into the future.

An organization called Two Countries, One Forest – 2C1Forest (www.2c1forest.org), a coalition of conservation groups and research-

partners have identified this linkage as a conservation priority and are recommending that wildlife corridors be created by both protecting and restoration of land before development expands further.

The work of 2C1Forest is focused

on a region known to the conservation community as the Northern Appalachian/Acadian ecoregion. This is an area of over 30 million hectares that extends from Nova Scotia to New York, including New Brunswick, the Gaspé Peninsula and Eastern Townships of Quebec, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Northern New York State. Scientific research by 2C1Forest has identified areas of



Salt marsh and forest on Crown land to the west of the Chignecto Game Sanctuary proposed to be part of a larger Wilderness Area, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia Wilderness Area. (Photo courtesy of Irwin Barrett)

ing within small islands of wilderness surrounded by human development. When confined to these small islands, many species, such as bear, lynx, marten and moose, which need a lot of room to roam to find food, a mate, and to disperse with their young, may not survive. Making this situation worse is the threat of climate change, which will inevitably change the landscape – forcing wildlife (and people, for that matter) to adapt or move.

The solution, in part, lies in establishing natural connections across the land – Natural super-highways running between protected areas to

ers from Canada and the U.S., has its sights set on conserving the Chignecto Game Sanctuary as part of a bigger plan to create a natural super-highway for wildlife between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Chignecto Game Sanctuary, 22,300 hectares of Crown land in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, is positioned right in the Chignecto isthmus and optimally situated to serve as a large natural stepping stone within a critical wildlife connecting zone – or linkage area - between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Research by 2C1Forest and regional

high conservation value across this large international region that it believes should be conserved, and one of those coincides with the Chignecto Game sanctuary. 2C1Forest, along with local conservation groups in Nova Scotia, are encouraging the provincial government to conserve the sanctuary as a Wilderness Area. Cumberland Wilderness and Cana-

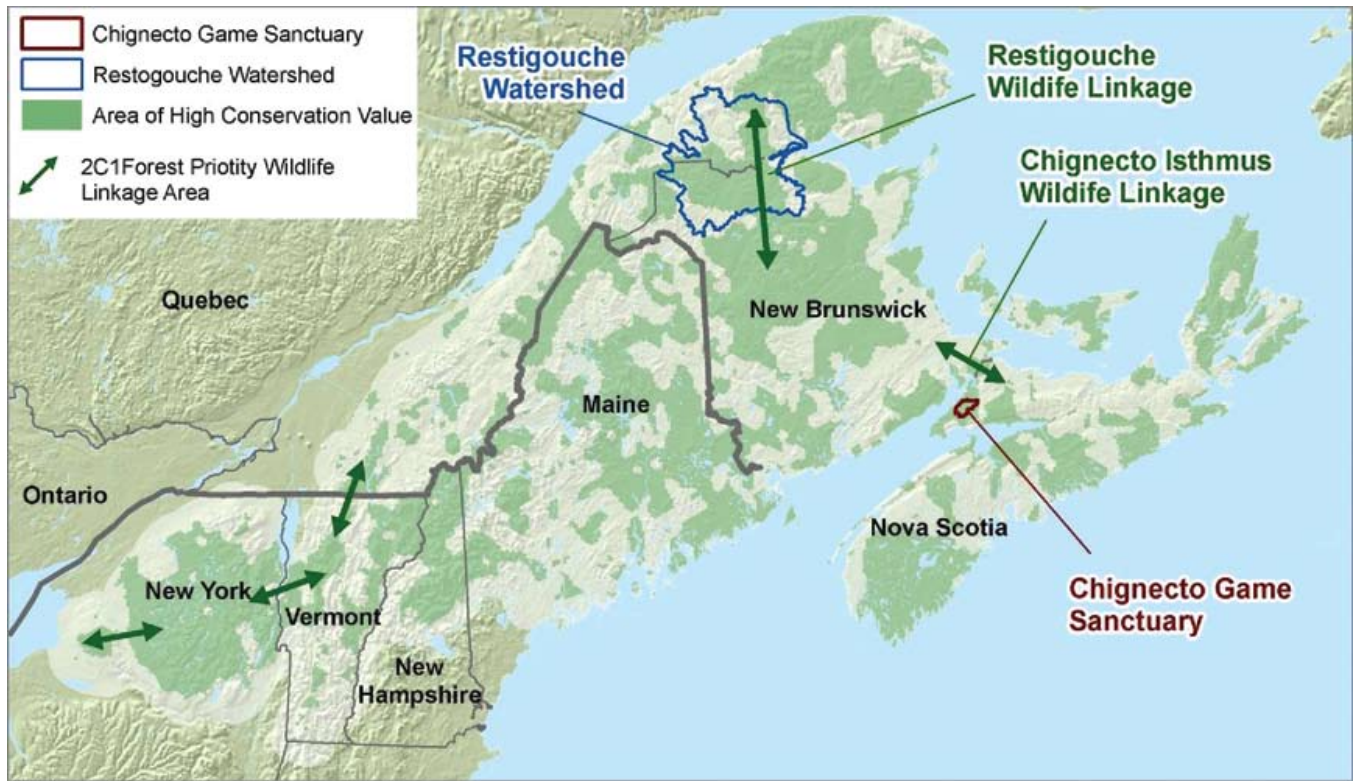
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Safe Passage: Natural Super Highways For Wildlife

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Map of the Northern Appalachian/Acadian Ecoregion. The Chignecto Game Sanctuary is located in an area of high conservation value within the Chignecto Isthmus Wildlife Linkage Area identified by 2C1Forest. Five Wildlife Linkage Areas have been identified by 2C1Forest including the Restigouche Wildlife Linkage within the Restigouche watershed.

dian Parks and Wilderness (CPAWS) are actively supporting the campaign to have this large wilderness area protected leaving it free from the threat of development while access for outdoor activities like hiking, and fishing and hunting (outside of game sanctuary restrictions) will remain.

On the other side of the Chignecto Isthmus in New Brunswick, local conservation groups, like the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Nature Conservancy Canada, are working to conserve the connection for wildlife from Nova Scotia, around Moncton to connect with intact wild-

life habitat in central New Brunswick. Another critical wildlife linkage 2C1Forest has identified is across the Restigouche watershed, known for its free running Atlantic Salmon rivers. This is an important wildlife movement corridor, particularly for lynx, bear and marten moving from the Gaspé Peninsula to Northern New Brunswick and northern Maine. Conserving Restigouche wildlife corridors will be especially important as the climate changes and wildlife need to range even farther to find suitable food, shelter and mates.

Based on research, 2C1Forest has identified a total of five priority wildlife linkage areas so far. The public can view and interact with the maps resulting from this research using the 2C1Forest online Atlas at [http://www.2c1forest.org/atlas/interactive-](http://www.2c1forest.org/atlas/interactive-map.html)

[map.html](http://www.2c1forest.org/atlas/interactive-map.html).

Finally there is good news – in 2010 the province called for public input on evaluating options to establish a wilderness area within Crown lands in and near Chignecto Game Sanctuary. This is all part of the province's commitment to protect 12 percent of Nova Scotia by 2015. 2C1Forest and partners are encouraging other Atlantic provinces to follow Nova Scotia's lead and establish more protected areas. The next step for all Atlantic Provinces will be to ensure wildlife corridors are managed so wildlife will be able to find the habitats they need, now and into the future.

Gillian Woolmer is the Assistant Director at Wildlife Conservation Society Canada.

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Hunters Vs. Hunters (Crossbows In New Brunswick)

Continued from page 27...

do not remember the similar arguments made by recurve hunters in the 1960s. Recurve bowhunters fought hard against the use of compounds during those years. Even today many rifle hunters do not readily accept bowhunters and blame them for wounding game. Many rifle hunters do not agree with the extended seasons that bowhunters presently have. Certainly modern compound hunters with their stabilizers, release triggers, fibre optic sights and 350 fps arrow speeds are at no disadvantage when compared to a crossbow.

There is one real advantage to a crossbow and this is that an archer can remain motionless while holding on an approaching deer without effort. Crossbows due to their configuration

cannot be carried easily through the woods and are not practical for stalking game. Stationary shooting from blinds and tree stands are necessary. In addition try cocking a crossbow in a tree stand; whereas second shots with vertical bows are quite possible. Crossbows are not useful for long range shooting and have basically the same range as modern bows. With the exception of the method required to cock a crossbow everything else is the same. Crossbow hunters must consider having a clear shooting lane, distance, tree stand location, etc. Shot placement for both crossbows and bows are identical as is the follow up after the shot. Anyone who has shot a crossbow knows that they are quite noisy as compared to a compound

bow and a deer has a greater chance of jumping the shot.

Hopefully crossbows will eventually be accepted by vertical bowhunters and crossbows will bring more hunters to the woods and possibly allow older or physically challenged hunters to participate in hunting. Simply checking with other Provinces where crossbow hunting has been put in place will show that there are no problems associated with the introduction of crossbows. Let's not put "hunters against hunters" in this or any other hunting issues.

Ron Whitehead is a past President of the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation.

Stop Wildlife Collisions In Their Tracks

By Gillian Birch

From St. John's to Victoria, Canada, is certainly known for its unique and picturesque landscapes. We are one of a handful of countries where people and wild animals live side by side, usually quite peacefully. However, when those people are behind the wheel of a car, that relationship gets a bit trickier.

Wildlife collisions are a real worry for Canadian drivers, particularly between May and June, when wildlife collisions are most frequent. The most costly result of these collisions is injury or even death of both the wildlife and the driver. They're more common than you'd think – a report from Transport Canada found that between four to eight large animal vehicle collisions take place every hour in Canada.

Most people, especially those in

regions with a mix of urban and rural areas, need to be more aware of animal collisions. It's important that drivers know the risks and act responsibly behind the wheel to try to prevent these accidents.

Here are some tips to reduce your chances of being involved in a wildlife collision:

- Read the signs and watch the road: Those yellow signs with the prancing deer are erected to warn drivers to slow down and be more aware, especially at night.
- Stay in control: Never swerve abruptly – hitting a tree or moving into oncoming traffic can result in significantly more harm than hitting the animal. Brake firmly if

an animal is standing on, or crossing the road.

- React: If you can't avoid striking the large animal, be ready to duck inside your car. Big animals – well in excess of 100 kilos, can come through your windshield and cause severe injuries.
- Control your travel times: If you can, avoid driving during twilight or sunrise, when collisions are more common.

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The Vanishing Caribou

By George W. Langen

This beautiful animal was known throughout the eastern provinces and Maine as the woodland caribou, and was a heavy-antlered type. Some 40 years ago, thousands of these animals roamed the forests of the Maritimes, and are now extinct in these provinces. They are found only in the far north, except for a few on the Gaspé.

The question is often asked – what caused the caribou to migrate from south of the St. Lawrence deep into the northern barren lands? Here are some of the theories advanced to answer that question: Some say that a tick killed many of them, which is true. But there was a certain amount of exaggeration about the number killed by ticks.

Others maintained that there was not enough caribou moss on our small barrens to support the increasing number of caribou. Still others say that when the deer became numerous the caribou left.

In my own personal observations, I have found that some of this reasoning is fairly true. But I am of the opinion that the repeating rifle in the hands of the hunter took such a toll on these easy-to-approach and curious animals that the remnant of the herds had the instinct to leave before they were completely annihilated.

To back up this statement, I am going to give a few facts regarding the slaughter of these animals. In the winter they used to follow the lumber cuttings to some extent in order to browse, and scores of them, as well as moose, were slaughtered to help the meat supply at the numerous camps. Hundreds more were killed by the

settlers and also by the Indians for the hides, which were used for the making of snowshoes.

I well remember many years ago, meeting a hunter who, while working at a lumber camp, had taken his rifle and started out in search of caribou. I had been working a trap line and stumbled onto the killer by chance. He had connected with a small herd of caribou. The snow was about two feet deep. He had come up against the wind, and the caribou did not get his scent. Dropping down behind a log that was covered with about one and a half feet of snow, and poking through the snow with his rifle barrel, he had dropped five of the caribou before they took fright and bolted for cover. I left the scene disquieted, and with a lingering suspicion that a nearby camp would be well supplied with caribou meat.

While hunting on the Tobique one fall while caribou were still quite numerous, we came to our camp one night about a half-hour before dark. As our wood supply was short, I took a cross-cut saw and went up on the ridge a few rods to cut a few blocks off a large dry pine which we had felled for dry wood a few days before. Just as I was about to start cutting, I discovered a large caribou standing about 15 rods from where I stood. There was a slight wind blowing down the ridge, so the caribou did not get my scent. As I was in a hurry, I did not bother with the animal but started to saw the log. The caribou stood and watched my movements for about half a minute. Then, blowing through its nostrils, it ran up the ridge a short distance, circled and came back again. After repeating this curious antic for the third time, the animal suddenly caught my scent and ran up over the ridge.

The question has been asked – would it be possible once more to

establish caribou in New Brunswick? It would be problematical. Of course, the government could bring in a few. But they are a wandering animal, and a thorough study of their habits would have to be made before bringing them south again.

The bull wanders around dejectedly with the herd in the early part of the season, looking something like a hen-pecked husband. But in the early fall he begins to perk up, and when the mating season arrives, he is right on his toes, and keeps himself well-groomed. He is at this time a handsome animal, round as an apple, a beautiful shawl down over his shoulder, and invariably has a fine set of antlers. He is ready then to fight any male that happens to interfere with his love-making. Many times I have heard the clash of horns, which guided me to such an encounter.

This is truly a beautiful animal during the fall months, but what a change in the late winter, especially from the middle of February to well into March. They are then very thin and homely, depending to some extent upon the severity of the winter, especially the depth of the snow. They have a peculiar gait when running, resembling that of a pacing horse, which seems to be more noticeable when they are thin.

George W. Langen was born in the town of Grand Falls in 1883, son of William Langen and Catherine Langen (nee Kelly). He was engaged in all manner of pioneer work, including guiding and woodsmanship on the Tobique River. His enthusiasm for outdoor adventure was born out of a love for wildlife and its environment. (Reprinted with permission from "Tobique Tales And Trails" published by Tony Langen.)

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Food Fishing License

By Ward Samson



Please allow me a few paragraphs to put the readers in light of a proposal that is coming to Newfoundland and Labrador with respect to the food fishery. Our Minister of Fisheries will be proposing an Atlantic Wide Licensing system for the food fishery.

I would ask that instead of using the word “recreational” that we use the word “public” for two reasons. 1) It more aptly describes the common property nature of the resource and 2) It more aptly describes the nature of the fishery.

Most Newfoundlanders and Labradorians fish for consumption, the freezer, or to salt /dry for the winter. Many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians consider the public fishery as equivalent to a fishery for food and a ceremonial fishery.

According to the Supreme Court of Canada, it has been “unquestioned law” since the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 that the public has the right to fish. There are those within DFO who will contend that our right was extinguished when a license was introduced and now again the Minister will want to introduce a new license for all of Atlantic Canada-to catch cod for food.

In R.vs Gladstone(adjudicated well after a license was introduced into Newfoundland –to catch a cod) the Court ruled that the Minister lacked the “ competent legislation” to enter into contracts with “private interests” for exclusive allocations of the resource and that, should a Bill be introduced it must clearly state its

intent to extinguish the public right to catch fish for food.

However, those rulings have not deterred DFO from trying to establish a licensing system for public users of this fishery and to have a quota attached defacto.

Ministers of the crown will continually say that fish are a common property resource, but still continue to issue licenses and tags. Moreover, DFO has, on more than one occasion, introduced a new licensing system for food and will do so again. Those licensing systems, introduced as Bills in the House of Commons want clearly to privatize the resource and cripple, if not extinguish entirely, the public right to fish for cod.

We in Newfoundland and Labrador must insist on documentation from the Minister that clearly states and supports the common property of the resource and guarantees that the introduction of a fishing license in no way constitutes extinguishment of the public right to fish. DFO always wishes to impose a surcharge (license) on all species of fish caught for consumption but have been frustrated by the courts. That is not to say that they will not attempt to use a new buzzword called “defined shares” which will essentially allocate the lion’s share of the resource to commercial operators.

Some Commercial harvesters supported by FFAW argue that the public should only receive 5% of the TAC. I have calculated what I feel the public fishery should receive but it would be very premature to give DFO a percentage of what the public fishery would need, because DFO would see this as negotiable and then ask the “public” fishery to accept much less as

a compromise. I would also suggest that tags are a logistical nightmare for DFO as well as personal logbooks ... as we should assume that fisher people are fudgers at best.

We need not only consider food fishers, but there will be charter operators, guides and lodges etc, who will want a piece of the action. The stacks of paper would be enormous and all the information would have to be entered into computer files to be of any use to managers. I do not think DFO wishes to go there.

Remember, I have said that DFO wishes to issue an Atlantic Wide Food Fishing License and I caution that if we accept this ... we will finish last.

Ward Samson is a former president of Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Federation.

ATTENTION

You are reading this magazine because you care and are interested in the material provided herein. We, the publishers would like to know what you the reader would like to see printed in the Atlantic Outdoors.

Perhaps you would like to send in a story or an article or maybe just some photographs to share with our readers.

In any case, you would be doing a great service to us, yourself, and of course your fellow outdoor advocates.

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Nature Trust Of New Brunswick

By Margo Sheppard

In tourism as in other pursuits, investing in infrastructure is essential. This is one reason that a popular, seaside resort town partnered with a private land trust on a critical project that would support tourism, by deterring development.

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick, a non-profit founded in 1987, had its eye on Navy Island for some time. Located, at low tide, less than 500m from the designated historic district of downtown St. Andrews, Navy Island had somehow escaped the frenzy of residential building activity that has seen infilling and sprawl along its nearby mainland.



That could easily have changed, had the landowners put their 61 acres of land on Navy Island, oriented in three lots, on the open market. The mystique of silent spruce-fir forest ringed by beach and low, red sandstone cliffs would not have avoided the attention of speculators, given the “estate residential” zoning that was in place.

Over the course of three years ending this summer, the Nature Trust worked with its partner, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and conserved 60 of the 152 acres on Navy



Island. The threat of monster homes, at least on the part of the island closest to town, has now been extinguished. The Town, a supporter and financial contributor to the project, has also moved to ratchet up zoning controls on the unprotected part of the Island, much of which is owned by a real estate developer from St. Andrews.

Navy Island is a magical place. Those who find it are impressed by the atmosphere of ancient times you find there—untouched, wild and beautiful. An overgrown Loyalist cemetery and one modest dwelling dating from the early 1800s are the sole remnants of human settlement.

There is a certain way of life that has developed in the [Passamaquoddy] Bay area. It's linked to the beauty and the marine-based economy. Preserving that way of life is important and this project is one small part of that.

St. Andrews' residents were eager to support the project to save these

lands. Some people saw the change that was happening in their town; they love the place and weren't sure they were ready to have houses there. In some cases people gave two, three and four donations to make sure this project happened.

Just down the road, as part of the same campaign, 315 acres of land were conserved by the Trust and the Conservancy, doubling the size of the popular Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve. In all, the three-year partnership secured 375 acres and 3km of coastline for permanent conservation.

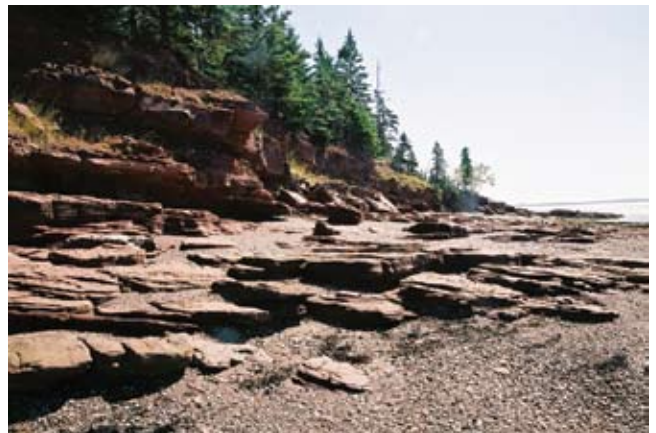
Because of this project to sustain



the natural integrity of Navy Island, chances are good that if you go to St. Andrews you will see, from the town shores, a panorama of wild, scenic beach and forest on the island. This is the type of tourism infrastructure that is so at risk, and is often taken for granted until it's gone.

The Nature Trust intends to consult the people of St. Andrews to see what, if anything, they want to have happen on Navy island that is, in effect, their backyard. Trust properties are managed for nature education, open space and quiet public enjoyment.

Margo Sheppard, Nature Trust of New Brunswick, (506) 457-2398 (o) 462-9915 (h), ntnb@nbnnet.nb.ca, www.naturetrust.nb.ca



The photos are from Tim Foulkes (aerial), Don Vail (osprey) and Margo Sheppard (beach)

Deer Hunting: Where To Look

By Everett Mosher

A local deer hunter that we shall call Ned hunts deer, or so he claims. Every year Ned drives out to the back woods, parks his vehicle at the end of any one of several woods roads that are no longer fit for travel by truck or car, loads his rifle, walks up that road for a mile or more, turns, walks back down the road to his vehicle, unloads his rifle, and then goes home. On occasion, Ned sees deer tracks, but has never shot a deer in more than 15 years of hunting. Unfortunately, a lot of hunters are like Ned.

So, where are the deer? Well, deer do not like being around the human critter. Instead, for much of the year they stay in what is called their core area, which is often only a few acres in size. From there they may venture out to feed on grass in a farmer's field, or to an old apple orchard to feed on apples, but only after it is full dark.

They have no reason, and no desire to go where humans commonly travel. And where do the humans, including the hunter, mostly travel? Well, like Ned, most go where the walking is easy, and often, where their chances of becoming lost are almost nil. Many do not know how to use a compass, and while they may have a GPS unit, they do not trust it to get them back to their vehicle.

Those hunters that, compass in hand, do make their way through the thick woods seldom venture in from a nearby woods road more than a half mile before turning around and making their way back out.

So, where do we look for those deer that we may see in a field in early spring, but never during the deer season? The answer of course is we go where the human hunter does not normally go, that is, in that part of the woods where the travel

is extremely difficult for the hunter, where the alders and other brush grow the thickest, where the fall-downs and other stuff makes the walking more of a crawl through an obstacle course, where there is swale and swamp to the point that wearing hip waders is a good idea, where there are thorn bushes that blocks travel with a wall of thorns, and areas that may be a mile or more from the nearest woods road. Consider the use of a small boat to cross a river or small lake to the far shore where often there is nary a hunter.

These areas are where the deer hole up, and it becomes their core area, and that's where they may live their entire life without seeing a human hunter.

Deer that strayed out onto the woods roads or other areas frequented by hunters have mostly been shot off a long time ago, and thus been eliminated from the gene pool. Deer that remain are the progeny of deer that only travelled at night, and have stayed well away from any area where the hunter normally travels.

So how does the hunter locate these deer? The answer is footwork, literally. One must force their way through thick brush, walk into an area a mile or more off the nearest road, be prepared for travel where after a sweat drenched hour one has only travelled three hundred yards, or where only after a half-day of swinging a machete has one been able to penetrate into the heart of several acres of thorn bushes. In other words, go where the other hunters do not go.

For example, when exploring new territory and driving down a main paved road, noted were two woods roads about three miles apart and running off from the main road. Each

had several vehicles parked just off the pavement, presumably by hunters. Half-way between those two roads and on the same side a sea of thick alders lined the main road. After parking, it took over a half an hour to worm ones way almost two hundred yards through those alders, then another half hour to go through dense woods where the spruce branches from adjacent trees intertwined one another. Yet beyond that the woods opened up, and, low and behold, an area where there were ample deer tracks, browsed bushes, and deer droppings galore. That day three deer were jumped, but not shot at, as only tails were seen. Getting back out to the main road was not fun, and was started in time to allow for the time needed to do so before full darkness. Due to the long drive from home (two hours), I haven't been back, but it gives some idea of what the average hunter may find, even almost in their own backyard.

It's very elemental. The deer stay where the human hunter does not normally go. For those that are willing to go there, you best be in very good physical shape, and have a fellow hunter that is willing to spend the better part of a day helping drag a trophy buck out of what the average hunter, to use the politest of terms, often describes as a "hell-hole". Hey, that's where the deer are.

Everett Mosher is a hunter/angler who lives in Sackville, New Brunswick.

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COHV Wants Everyone To “Ride Safe, Ride Smart”

By Jo-Anne Farquhar

The Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) recognized long ago that new and refurbished trail infrastructure was necessary so that All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and off-road motorcycle (ORMs) enthusiasts had safe places to ride and enjoy Canada's great outdoors. That is why in July, 2006, the member companies of COHV set up a levy to support the sustainability and growth of ORM and ATV riding throughout Canada.

Along with funding support COHV believes that rider education, parental supervision, and appropriate government legislation is also key to improving ATV safety for both youth and adults. And when statistics report that vehicle misuse is present in 92% of ATV fatalities, industry realizes there is a need to constantly educate and inform riders and owners on how to minimize risks to ATV users.

In fact, youth-model ATVs were previously produced in just two categories, Y-6 and Y-12 and were tied to specific engine displacements up

to 90cc. These classifications and engine size limitations worked for some younger riders but were less helpful to older and bigger riders, resulting in some 14 and 15 year olds choosing to ride adult-model ATVs.

With the introduction of the ANSI/SVIA- 2007 industry voluntary standards for ATVs, new youth ATV models are now categorized differently for varying ages, with differing speed limitations and parental controls.

In support of these changes, COHV has introduced a safety DVD “Ride Safe, Ride Smart” to demonstrate the safe and responsible use of ATVs with the goal of assisting riders in reducing accidents and injuries that could result from improper ATV operation. This nine-minute video is a rider-friendly look at how to get a proper start in ATV riding.

Along with the DVD, COHV has introduced, the Parents, Youngsters and All-Terrain Vehicles booklet that is intended to assist parents in determining if your youngster is ready to ride all-terrain vehicles.

Remember, ATVs are not toys. Proper instruction and practice are important. This booklet will assist parents with information on choosing the correct youth size model that is recommended for use by your youngster's age group. It also provides important safety information and tips on learning to ride. It is important for parents to help their youngsters understand and follow the instructions and warnings in the ATV's owner's manual and on its labels.

To obtain copies of the DVD, the booklet or any of the other free safety materials offered by the COHV, please visit our website at www.cohv.ca or email us at safety@cohv.ca.

Jo-Anne Farquhar is the Director of Communications & Public Affairs for the Motorcycle & Moped Industry Council (MMIC) and the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) and can be reached at 416-491-4449 or toll-free at 877.470.2288 or by email at jfarquhar@cohv.ca.

ATV Safety Starts Before The Turn Of The Key

All-terrain vehicle riding through Canada's most scenic trails is a great way to stay active and spend quality time with family and friends while enjoying the sunshine and fresh air. But before embarking on a new trail, make sure to keep safety in mind.

An ATV can be a dangerous ma-

chine if not handled with appropriate cautionary measures. Always wear a properly fitted helmet that meets all safety requirements. Dress for the sport, the weather and the terrain. Before each ride, check that all functions and features are in proper working order. Examine the engine, breaks, lights and tires regularly. Make sure the ATV fits the rider. Don't let young children ride an ATV that is too large or too heavy as it may result in serious injury.

Local regulations and bylaws regarding ATV usage may vary, so

get familiar with those pertaining to a specific destination.

Last but not least, never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol. An ATV is a motor vehicle like any other and should be treated that way.

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Primal Vantage Expands Recall Of Plastic Tree Steps Due To Fall Hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Ameristep Plastic Strap-On Tree Step

Units: About 17,800 (Release #10-101 recalled 16,000 steps with date code 12/08 on January 7, 2010. Steps with 10/08 date code are being added to the original recall.)

Manufacturer: Primal Vantage Co., Inc., of Randolph, N.J.

Hazard: The plastic portion of the step can break, posing a fall hazard to the user.



Incidents/Injuries: Primal Vantage has received six complaints of step breakage, including two reports of consumers being bruised and cut.

Description: Product is a plastic tree step that attaches to a tree via a nylon strap and a large metal buckle. It

is used to climb a tree in order to hunt from an elevated position. Models 105 and 155 both have either a 10/08 or 12/08 date code, which is stamped on the plastic portion of the step.

Sold at: The product was sold from December 2008 through November 2009 at various outdoor and sporting goods retailers nationwide as a 3-step package in model 105 or as a single step in model 155.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the tree steps immediately. They should contact Primal Vantage for details on how to obtain a full refund.

Consumers are asked not to return the product to retail stores as refunds can only be provided by Primal Vantage.

Utility Snow Sled Hitch Recalled by Pelican International Due to Injury Hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Utility sled tow hitch

Units: About 250

Importer: Pelican International, of Quebec, Canada

Hazard: The screw(s) in the hitch can become loose and fall off due to vibrations when items are being towed, allowing the sled and hitch to detach from the towing vehicle. This poses an injury hazard to the user and bystanders.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received 10 reports of the screw coming loose. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The tow hitch pivot is black metal and measures about 9.25 inches in length and 3.25 inches in diameter. The hitch is used in connection with the Pelican Snow Trek Utility sled. The hitch allows a Snow



Trek sled to be connected to a snowmobile or other similar transportation device. Recalled models include:

Product code / Product name / UPC

LDT60PC00 / Snow Trek 60 with runners and hitch / 776324512597

LDT75PC01 / Snow Trek 75 with runners and hitch / 776324514041

LDT75PD01 / Snow Trek 75 with runners, hitch and cover / 776324515222

PS2003-1 / Kit Sled Tow Hitch / 776324511101

PS2003-00 / Kit Sled Tow Hitch / 776324506480

PS2003-1-00 / Kit Sled Two Hitch / 776324512689

Sold at: Paricon Inc.,

V.G. Grace and other regional distributors and sports retailers nationwide from January 2007 through December 2009 for about \$50 if sold alone, and between \$130 and \$250 if sold with the sled.

Manufactured in: China and Canada

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the sled tow hitch and contact the firm to receive a free replacement kit and installation instructions.

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Rome Snowboards Recalls Bindings Due to Fall Hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Snowboard Boot Bindings

Units: About 2,900 in the United States and 220 in Canada

Manufacturer: Rome Snowboards Co., of Waterbury, Vt.



Hazard: The snowboard binding's base plate can break at cold temperatures, posing a fall hazard to snowboarders.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received 14 reports of base plates breaking. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves the Rome Snowboards Co. 2010 United snowboard bindings. The bindings come in black and red colour themes and in sizes small, medium and large. Rome is printed on the highback. The bindings also have graphics on the back of the highback and on

the rear portion of the baseplate.

Sold at: The snowboard bindings were sold at snow sports retailers from September 2009 through December 2009 for about \$160.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled snowboard bindings and contact Rome Snowboards for free replacement bindings.



The Coleman Company Recalls Water-Activated Spotlights Due to Risk of Impact Injury

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Coleman® WaterBeam™ 4D Water-Activated Floating Spotlights

Units: About 50,000 units

Manufacturer: Sky City Holdings International LTD, China

Distributor: The Coleman Company, Inc., of Wichita, Kansas

Hazard: The lens assembly can come apart from the main housing of the spotlight with force and pose a risk of impact injuries to consumers.



Model Number 5338-792

Incidents/Injuries: Coleman has received 33 reports of the lens assembly coming apart, 18 of which resulted in reports of impact injuries such as bruising, lacerations and minor burns.

Description: The recalled spotlights are Coleman® water-activated hand-held spotlights, model number 5338-782 (orange) UPC 76501

222733, model number 5338-792 (yellow) UPC 76501 222753 and model number 2000000153 (blue/white) UPC 76501 226683. A white label is affixed to the inside of the spotlight lens with the model number and production date information printed on the label.

Sold at: Various sporting good stores and retail outlets nationwide from January 2005 through June 2010 for between about \$20 and \$25.



Model Number 5338-782

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately remove the batteries and stop using the spotlights. Visit www.coleman.com for additional instructions on how to obtain a replacement light.



Model Number 2000000153



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ATV Maintenance 101

Riding the trails on an all-terrain vehicle is a great way to spend a summer day. But plowing through some of Canada's bumpiest and messiest ATV trails can take a toll on the machine. Regular tune-ups and fixes can add up so it's crucial to take proper care of the four-wheeler.

A proper clean after each use will expand your machine's lifespan, so after each ride close off the exhaust and air box and clean the ATV. Check the oil regularly – the oil level should never be above the maximum or below the minimum mark on the dipstick. Fill up with oil when necessary. Always clean and lubricate the drive chain before each ride to save

on repair costs down the line. To prevent engine damage, make sure the foam air filter is clean and lubricated.

Another useful tip is learning how to read spark plug colours. This will tell whether the engine is working properly and help to catch problems before they cause serious damage to the engine. Check the tire pressure regularly to ensure the ATV is driving and breaking in a straight line. Finally,



use proper rust-proofing methods to keep the machine in great shape, as rust significantly reduces the ATV's structural strength.

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How To Buy The Perfect All-Terrain Vehicle

To hit Canada's lush, scenic trails in style, lifestyle and recreational equipment here are some valuable tips for finding the perfect all-terrain vehicle:

- Consider the terrain – make sure the ATV is suitable for the destination.
- Consider the rider – if the ATV will

be used by children, avoid buying one that is too large or too heavy to handle.

- Consider a remote shut off switch – this gives the owner greater control over the machine, especially when your children are driving it.
 - Consider a budget – stick to it to avoid any surprises when the

bill arrives.

Visit www.giomotors.com for more than 30 models of ATVs and dirt bikes, and an online auction to make the purchase quick, easy and affordable.

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Happy Trails For ATV Riders

Canada offers numerous trails at every level of experience for all-terrain vehicles. Here are five favourites, why not make this the season to try them all?

1. Elliot Lake, Ont., boasts the largest insured ATV trail network in Canada with more than 300 kilometres of trails.

2. Happy Island ATV Tours ushers riders from North Sydney, N.S., and then to Newfoundland via the Joseph and Clara Smallwood ferry.

3. Whistler ATV explores Brit-

ish Columbia's hidden lakes, waterfalls, mountains and deep forests.

4. Alberta Outdoor Adventures carves through the Rocky Mountain wilderness.

5. Saguenay's Lac-Saint-Jean area weaves through Quebec's Parc national de la Pointe-Taillon.



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ATTENTION BOATERS: THERE ARE CHANGES IN APPLYING FOR A PLEASURE CRAFT LICENCE

Did you know that any pleasure craft powered by a motor over 10 hp (7.5 kW) must have a valid licence? A pleasure craft licence allows search and rescue personnel and other agencies to quickly identify your boat in the event of an emergency.

As of **November 1, 2010**, to get your free pleasure craft licence, you must mail the following documents to the Pleasure Craft Processing Centre:

1. a completed application form;
2. proof of vessel ownership; and
3. a signed copy of a valid piece of government-issued identification. (Further information is available on the form.)

Application forms are available online at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca, or for pickup in person through your local Service Canada Centre. For **Service Canada** locations, visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca.

To learn more about pleasure craft licensing, visit Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca, or call the Boating Safety InfoLine at 1-800-267-6687.

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Saviez-vous qu'il faut détenir un permis pour toute embarcation de plaisance propulsée par un moteur d'une puissance égale ou supérieure à 10 hp (7,5 kW)? Un permis d'embarcation de plaisance permet au personnel de recherche et de sauvetage et à d'autres organismes d'identifier rapidement votre embarcation en cas d'urgence.

Pour obtenir gratuitement un permis d'embarcation de plaisance, vous devrez, à compter du **1^{er} novembre 2010**, faire parvenir par courrier les documents suivants au Centre de traitement des permis d'embarcation de plaisance :

1. un formulaire dûment rempli;
2. un document prouvant que vous êtes le propriétaire de l'embarcation;
3. une copie signée d'une pièce d'identité valide délivrée par un gouvernement (autres renseignements disponibles dans le formulaire).

Les formulaires sont disponibles en ligne au www.securitenautique.gc.ca. Vous pouvez aussi en obtenir une copie à votre **Centre Service Canada** local. Pour savoir où il se trouve, consultez le www.servicecanada.gc.ca.

Pour en savoir plus au sujet des permis d'embarcation de plaisance, consultez le Bureau de la sécurité nautique de Transports Canada au www.securitenautique.gc.ca ou composez le numéro du service de renseignements téléphoniques sur la sécurité nautique, 1-800-267-6687.

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