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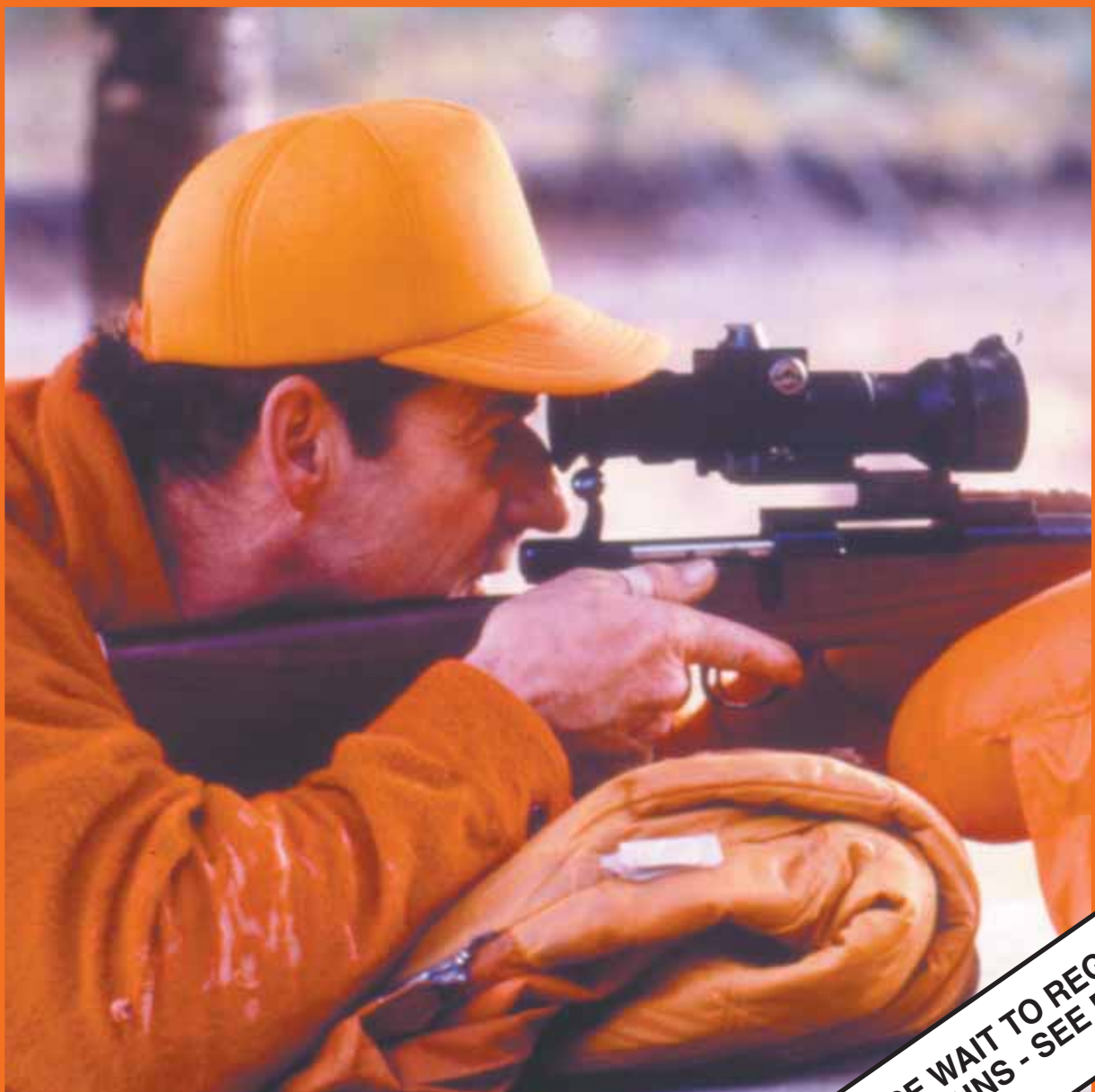
**VOLUME 10, NO. 4
FALL 2001**

**No Cougars
In Province**

Why We Hunt

**North American
Moose Foundation**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS**



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FALL 2001

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Please Wait To Register Your Guns

The unnamed shooter on our cover checks his accuracy through the rifle scope while taking target practice. And like many shooters and hunters hopes to do so for many years to come. Our Federation does not support civil disobedience of the Firearms Act but we do understand why many people have chosen to break the law and not license themselves and register their firearms.

However if you did receive personalized firearm registration papers that are now in the mail, please wait. This registration for free is really only to help them. In December 2002 pay the \$18.00 to register your guns then. It's a small price to pay for the inconvenience government has caused us with this legislation. Delay your registration. Thanks.

To place your ad in the next issue (Winter, 2001) of Nova Outdoors, please call (902) 468-6112, or call Tony Rodgers of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters at (902) 477-8898.

Nova Outdoors

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of Anglers and Hunters



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Fall, 2001
**STATEMENT
OF PURPOSE**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is interested in all aspects of the out-of-doors and is dedicated to the fostering of sound management and wise use of the renewable resources of the Province. We want to ensure that their economic, recreational and aesthetic values may continue for the benefit of this and all future generations.

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President's Message

Are Fish Out of Water?

Once again poor land use practices combined with summer drought transformed many Nova Scotian rivers into trickles. Climate change is a reality, whatever the causes. A recent report entitled "Water Resources Needs of the Agricultural Industry in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia" contains some insights about present water use and demands for the future. Rivers are essential habitats for speckled trout, brown trout and Atlantic salmon. Conservationists may find the "study" alarming.



Bob Bancroft

When I first began field work as a student in the 60s, the price of beer (24 pints) was \$5.00. There was no speculation that, by the year 2000,

beer would cost less per ounce (or ml) than some packaged drinking water! Now its value is escalating, and our freshwater fish populations are suffering.

Water use can be municipal (for drinking and sewage treatment), industrial, power, fish farming, recreational, or agricultural purposes. In seven watersheds that included the Cornwallis and Annapolis Rivers, 6,083 of 10,531 acres planted in horticultural crops were irrigated. That doesn't include livestock watering! Approximately 33 farms (or 12.8% of the 258 surveyed) thought they had a water withdrawal permit from the NS Department of the Environment (NSDoE). Only 19 out of the 33 who indicated they had permits were on NSDoE's list. None of the farmers held a permit for livestock watering. Pig farms were estimated to be using 248,500 US gallons per day (USgpd), while dairy cattle were using 88,200 USgpd. Some (perhaps many) farmers were hesitant to provide survey information because

they were not in compliance with the regulations. The report states that many farmers are unfamiliar with a water permit. The vast majority believed that they did not need permission to withdraw any quantity of water from a well or pond.

Rivers can go dry from watering domestic animals, crop irrigation and so on. There are two types of water use. "Instream" consumers include wildlife, power (NSPI) and recreation. "Withdrawal" uses include agriculture and domestic. With less than 30% of the water used being returned to the source, agriculture is a consumer, not just a user. This report calls for the NS Department of the Environment to establish a dialogue with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to exploit more water from these rivers. Many of these waters contain trout, not salmon habitat, which leaves me wondering if some DFO officials will have concerns about the impact. I've seen trout habitat in Nova Scotia transformed to a private aeroplane runway by permit.

Potential solutions proposed in this report are based on the fact that Atlantic Canada has the highest runoff level (83%) for its annual precipitation rate of 1000-1500 mm. This high runoff rate is due in part to poor land use, with the gradual development of "hit and flush" rivers.

1) Proposed temporary water storage ponds could be constructed on users' properties to catch runoff. This could have minimal affects on fish populations.

2) More dams on main stems and tributaries of rivers would impair sea trout and other fish that move to salt water. Dams can also raise summer water temperatures to lethal levels.

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Executive Director's Voice



So you want to be a hunter in the 21st Century? Well I'm very glad to hear you do. But before we can hunt, I have a short list of new weapons you'll need to help sustain us into the future.

First, is a high speed computer with a modem and a telephone line. Second, a membership card for a local or provincial wildlife/hunter-angler organization, preferably this Federation. Third, increased knowledge about your hobby gained through books and Internet research and attend any meetings on the subject. Fourth and most important is to become a full time, 12 months a year, 24/7 dedicated hunter. Think, eat and be a hunter.

Well you're saying Tony has finally flipped his lid this time, hunting with a computer, but no my friends, I haven't lost it yet. This equipment I have just listed is going to be as important or perhaps even more important than a rifle or bow in hunting and taking game in the 21st Century. Because if we are not allowed to be in the woods, or we are refused to use certain equipment or we are

denied the privilege to hunt, then any shooting gear we own is obsolete.

The hunters of this new century will have to defend their sport against hordes of antis and other uneducated do-gooders. But our biggest threat may be our own governments. Governments who have already and are willing to take money from these anti hunting people and then do their bidding.

We have entered the information age. You've all heard that expression, well its true.. People are sharing ideas and influencing others at a greater rate than at any other time in our history. Just today, a hunter friend of mine, Walter Hingley, who is now living and working in the Eastern United States, sent me a note about some information I should pay attention to. It was an article in Discover Magazine, that is also online, about the many uses of cow parts in today's world. The cow, it turns out, is the epitome of recycling. A totally used resource. But given the problems of hoof and mouth disease and chronic wasting disease associated with cows, we should be paying more attention to this issue. Stop now.

Why would a hunter be interested? Because chronic wasting disease was discovered in deer in western Canada. How far can it be from us? This is high speed education, something I'm sure would have passed me by five years ago. Is it important – yes – but for my purposes today it's just an example of how far we have come in the exchange of information.

It's not just the elite anymore that have this information literally at their fingertips.

It's for all of us. But this exchange of knowledge is not just hunters and anglers. The evil ones, the anti-hunters, use it too.

Every government department and every government employee, including the federal and provincial cabinet ministers, have e-mail addresses. It's time for all hunters to start using these addresses to get our information to our leaders and bureaucrats. Use this invention to send our message and express our points of view. I sometimes still favor paper letters to hold a hard copy but even those I often fax, anyway. The times are changing for everyone.

These weapons will get you access to documents and departments that use to take weeks and months to get information from. It's now instantaneous. Surf the web for information on how others are keeping their sport alive and learn their lessons.

Government legislation has been killing us over the past number of years. It seemed every time we turned around, bang, new rules. The introduction of firearm legislation by the federal government has caused us unmeasurable harm and will over time cripple the ability for hunters to generate sufficient capital to aid wildlife conservation. This is a lesson government will learn too slowly. Then we were given more boat safety regulations to swallow, and next after the House of Commons returns from the summer recess I expect the Animal Cruelty Bill will be back for debate and speedy passage. That is Bill C-15 if you plan on looking it up on the Federal government web site.

Now, here is a good starting project for all of you 21st Century hunters. Try to bag this critter with your new weapons. This proposed legislation is a "catch all bill". It has parts in it that are very positive. One section is designed to help protect children from Internet stalkers, other parts would increase penalties to people who take a police officer's firearm. It even has some positive changes to the criminal code that improves sections of the firearms act. Now doesn't that all sound peachy.

It does, that is, until you realize that the changes brought forward in the bill to improve the ancient animal cruelty laws

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Why We Hunt

By Randall L. Eaton, Ph.D.

We hunt because we love it, but why do we love it so?

As an inherited instinct, hunting is deeply rooted in human nature. Around the world in all cultures the urge to hunt awakens in boys. They use rocks, make weapons or sneak an airgun out of the house to kill a bird or small mammal. In many cases the predatory instinct appears spontaneously without previous experience or coaching, and in the civilized world boys often hunt despite attempts to suppress their instinct.



The fundamental instinct to hunt may link up with the spiritual. An analogy is falling in love in which eros, the sexual instinct, connects with agape or spiritual love. Initiation on the path of love changes our life irreversibly. Henceforth, we shall know the meaning of authentic love experienced with the totality of our being.

When we fall in love, the instinctive or primal self merges with the spiritual. It is a vertical convergence of subconscious to superconscious, lower to higher.

Hunting is how we fall in love with nature. The basic instinct links up with the spiritual, and the result is that we become married to nature. Among nature pursuits, hunting and fishing connect us most profoundly with animals and nature. As Robert Bly said in his best-selling book, *Iron John*, only hunting expands us sideways, "into the glory of oaks, mountains, glaciers, horses, lions, grasses, waterfalls, deer."

Hunting is a basic aspect of a boy's initiation into manhood. It teaches him the intelligence, beauty and power of nature. The young man also learns at a deep emotional level his inseparable relationship with nature as well as his responsibility to fiercely protect it.

Essentially, hunting is a spiritual experience precisely because it submerges us in nature, and that experience teaches us that we are participants in something far greater than ourselves. Ortegay Gasset, the Spanish philosopher, described the hunter as the alert man. He could not have said it better. When we hunt we experience extreme alertness to the point of an altered state of consciousness. For the hunter everything is alive, and he is one with the animal and its environment.

Though the hunter may appear from the outside to be a staunch egoist dominating nature, on the inside he is exactly the opposite. He identifies with the animal as his kin, and he feels, as Ortega said, tied through the earth to it. The conscious and deliberate humbling of the hunter to the level of the animal is virtually a religious rite.

While the hunt is exhilarating and unsurpassed in intrinsic rewards and emotional satisfactions, no hunter revels in the death of the animal. Hunters know from first-hand experience that "life lives on life," as mythologist Joseph Campbell said. The hunter participates directly in the most fundamental processes of life, which is why the food chain is for him a love chain. And that is why hunters have been and still are, by far, the foremost conservationists of wildlife and wild places, to the benefit of everyone.

Today as for countless millennia proper initiation to hunting engenders respect for all life, responsibility to society, even social authority, and spiritual power. It develops authentic self-esteem, self-control, patience and personal knowledge of our place in the food chain. According to Dr. Don T. Jacobs, author of *Teaching Virtues*, "hunting is the ideal way to teach universal vir-

ties," including humility, generosity, courage and fortitude. As I said in *The Sacred Hunt*, "Hunting teaches a person to think with his heart instead of his head. That is the secret of hunting."

Consequently, the most successful programs ever conducted for delinquent boys have focused on hunting. The taking of a life that sustains us is a transformative experience. It's not a video game. Hunting is good medicine for bad kids because it is good medicine for all kids.



Hunting is a model for living. When we hunt we discover that we are more than the ego. That our life consists of our ego in a mutually interdependent and transcendent relationship with nature. We keep returning to the field because for us hunting is a dynamic ritual that honors the animals and the earth on which we depend both physically and spiritually.

Continued on next page

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Justice Minister's Answers Are Full Of Holes

By Garry Breitreuz, MP

Talking Points

McLellan Myth #1 – Claiming the gun registry is a “phenomenal success” because she says it has blocked 65,000 “potentially dangerous” gun sales.

The Truth Is:

1. The fact is that most of these “potentially dangerous” gun sales were

blocked because of improperly completed paperwork. In presenting these statistics, the Minister should say how many of the 65,000 legal gun sales proceeded **after** the gun owner had successfully maneuvered through the maze of government red tape.

2. The Minister failed to mention to the House that the law has required Firearms Acquisition Certificates since 1979. By administering the old FAC program more effectively the government could have blocked just as many “legal” gun sales. For example, the

United States blocks thousands of legal gun sales everyday *without a gun registry*, just by conducting criminal record checks before a person is allowed to buy a firearm.

3. The Minister also failed to point out that any gun sales that were blocked were only “legal” gun sales. The *Firearms Act* only regulates legal gun sales, not guns sold on the black-market. Her own User Group on Firearms warned her that the Liberal's onerous gun laws were actually increasing black-market gun sales because it was driving licenced firearms dealers out of business.

Why We Hunt...

Continued from previous page

While interviewing Felix Ike, a Western Shoshone elder, I asked him, “What kind of country would this be if the majority of men in it had been properly initiated into hunting?” He replied, “It would be a totally different world.”

In a world imperiled by egoism and disrespect for nature, hunting is morally good for men and women, boys and girls. Hunters understand the meaning in Lao Tzu's statement,

The Earth is perfect
You cannot improve it,
If you try to change it,
You will ruin it.
If you try to hold it,
You will lose it.

Some aboriginal peoples believe that the Creator made us perfect, too, and that He made us to be hunters, dependent on

nature and close to the earth. Like Narcissus, civilized humanity has fallen in love with itself and turned its back on its hunting companions and its animal kin. Heed the teaching of the ages summarized in this admonition from Loren Eiseley, “Do not forget your brethren, nor the green wood from which you sprang. To do so is to invite disaster.”

Disaster looms over us now as we wage endless battles with anti-hunters who do not understand that we are the tribe of wild men and women whose hearts hold the promise for recovery of proper relationship to the animals and earth. If we should lose hunting a far greater disaster will befall nature, society and the human spirit. ♣

Randall L. Eaton may be contacted at 541-426-2047, reaton@eoni.com. Website at www.eoni.com/~reaton. Or by writing to P.O. Box 280, Enterprise, OR 97828 USA.

McLellan Myth #2 – Claiming it would be inappropriate for her or the Solicitor General to comment on law enforcement activities of local police.

The Truth Is:

1. If the Minister's statement is true, how did the Assembly of First Nations get the impression from a meeting with the CEO of the Canadian Firearms Centre that AFN Vice Chief, Bill Erasmus wrote all the Chiefs in the country saying the CFC “ would advise law enforcement agencies not to charge First Nations citizens under the Firearms Act and Criminal Code if then Chief had forwarded up names of First Nation band lists.” [In lieu of an individual firearms application required by law from every gun owner]

2. If the Minister's treatment is true, why did she feel it was necessary to set up a firearms enforcement support team in her department? Does she not have faith in the Solicitor General, the RCMP, provincial attorney's general, and the regional, city and municipal police forces to do their jobs?

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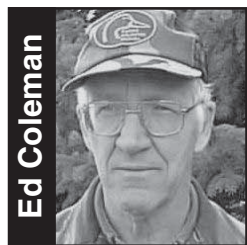
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No Cougars In Province, Houndsman Says

By Ed Coleman

Along with his late father Glen, Kings County houndsman Wayne Downey, hunted bobcats in Nova Scotia for 45 years. The Downeys hunted in five counties with their cat hounds, travelling over countless hundreds of miles of wilderness area in winter, using snowshoes and snowmobile.



Ed Coleman

"We covered a lot of the backwoods in those years," Downey says, "and if cougars existed we'd have seen some kind of sign, tracks, a kill or something to indicate they're here. But there was nothing, absolutely nothing, and I seriously doubt there are any cougars in the province."

For some 30 years as well, the Downeys raised and sold hounds to cat hunters from Yarmouth to Cape Breton and in New Brunswick. "The guys who bought our dogs were avid bobcat hunters and we often heard back from them on how they were doing and how our dogs were standing up," Downey says. "Not once in the 30 years these hunters were running hounds from our kennel did we hear anything about cougars. We got many reports on how many bobcats were being taken, but nothing on cougars."

Since Downey was in the woods with his hounds all those years and had feedback from other cat hunters for decades, he treats all reports on cougar sighting with cynicism. "They're simply cases of over active imaginations, of people being poor observers and seeing things that aren't there," he says in effect. "There are no cougars and that's that."

To make his point Downey likes to tell about the time a farmer called and wanted them to put their dogs on a cougar he'd just seen in his backyard. The farmer had cornered the cougar in his workshop where it had pursued the family dog, and fired at it when the cat bounded past him

out the door. On the telephone he described a large cat with a long tail and said it was definitely a cougar.

When the Downeys arrived in the farmer's yard they found fresh bobcat tracks. Half an hour later their hounds treed the bobcat and Wayne Downey bagged it. The farmer was astounded - and embarrassed - when they showed him the bobcat. "I would've sworn it had a long tail," he said.

What also makes Downey sceptical about the cougar's existence - and he has a good point - is that despite hundreds of hunters being in the woods every autumn and a lot of serious coyote trapping going on since this animal invaded the province several decades ago, no one has bagged or trapped a cougar.

I've been reporting on cougar sightings in this column for at least 30

years and I'm amazed that in all that time no one has obtained a specimen or a photograph. There have been hundreds of reported sightings in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick but no concrete evidence of the cougar's existence has been found.

What brings all this to mind is the recent sighting of a cougar on the North Mountain in Kings County. This sighting is different in that it was recorded on film. The animal believed to be a cougar was captured on videotape as it strolled along a sunny slope earlier this summer.

This film is currently being studied by the Department of Natural Resources. ▶

Ed Coleman is a well known outdoors writer who lives in Annapolis Valley, N.S.

President's Message

Continued from page 4

3) More wells may impact aquifers and springs, resulting in slower groundwater flows to streams and rivers. That would hurt trout populations and aquatic habitat in tributaries. Already trout in the main portions of rivers are forced by extremely warm water temperature to seek smaller, cooler tributaries during dry, hot summers.

4) Suggestions of modifying aboiteaus on dykelands to create water storage could further reduce movement of fish from sea to fresh water, and create a temperature barrier to fish at the salt-water/freshwater interface.

5) Another suggestion to evaluate surplus water availability on the South Mountain with an eye to conveying it for agricultural use on the Valley floor. "Surplus" might seem to be an optimistic term to anyone with fish habitat in mind.

Promoting water conservation and more efficient irrigation practices should be first on this priority list. If trickle irrigation is more efficient, with less losses due to evaporation and runoff than all other types, why is this not a recommendation? Farm managers could change watering

methods to reduce water use.

Generally this report stresses the agricultural requirement for more and more water. That overshadows suggestions to implement conservation measures such as increasing the efficiency of irrigation or reducing waste. Anglers may have to add a strong voice in this issue to include the conservation of wild fish populations and their freshwater habitats in this all-too-human agenda. Coincidentally, Inland Fisheries and Agriculture are lumped into the same provincial department. One might think that fish habitat would have some focus in this study. ▶

Bob Bancroft

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Why Sporting Clays?

Making The Most Of Those Hunting Opportunities

Submitted by David Bauld

It is a rare day hunting game birds that presents more than a half dozen opportunities to harvest your quarry. If you really think about the days you spend in the field hunting grouse, woodcock, pheasants or waterfowl, how many shots do you get? Most of the time, unless you are extremely lucky or well connected, the freelance hunter might get a half dozen good shots. The guided hunt or sea duck experience might offer more gunning opportunities, but not everyone can afford a guided hunt or has the equipment to go sea ducking.

With the limited opportunities available to hunters and significant investment in time and gear required by hunters, it

makes tremendous sense to me that hunters should be as prepared as possible to capitalize on those rare opportunities when they arise. Sporting clays is my answer to this problem. This sport is designed to put a hunter in different simulated hunting situations, therefore preparing him for the "shot" when it comes. I practice year round at our club in Stewiacke, so that I know when those black ducks are circling my spread on opening day that I have the ability to cleanly harvest my quarry. Not only does the practice help my wing shooting, but it also helps with judging ranges and sharpens focus so that for example when a hen and cock pheasant jump up in front of me, I can focus on the cock and with some luck cleanly harvest my quarry.

Our sporting clays club (Nova Sporting Clays Club) has shots like "bumped grouse", "springing teal", "goose shot", "flushing pheasants", all designed to simulate hunting conditions.

The ability to judge ranges and cleanly harvest your quarry prevents

"skybusting" and lost birds. In addition, belonging to a sporting clays club is a great way to meet other hunters and sportsmen.

There are sporting clays clubs throughout the province and all across North America. Most clubs shoot on a regular basis, for example, we shoot Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Other clubs shoot evenings and/or weekends. In addition to regular informal shoots we host what I call fun shoots, raising funds for dog clubs, Ducks Unlimited, the Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the IWK. There are trophies and prizes but mostly bad jokes and lots of fun.

Anyone interested in shooting at our club can call our club line (902) 639-2843 for details.

I always say "we wait all year for hunting season, invest a lot of time and money in gear and wait all day for the big chance, so why not be able to make the shot when it really counts".

David Bauld is a member of the Nova Sporting Clays Clubs.

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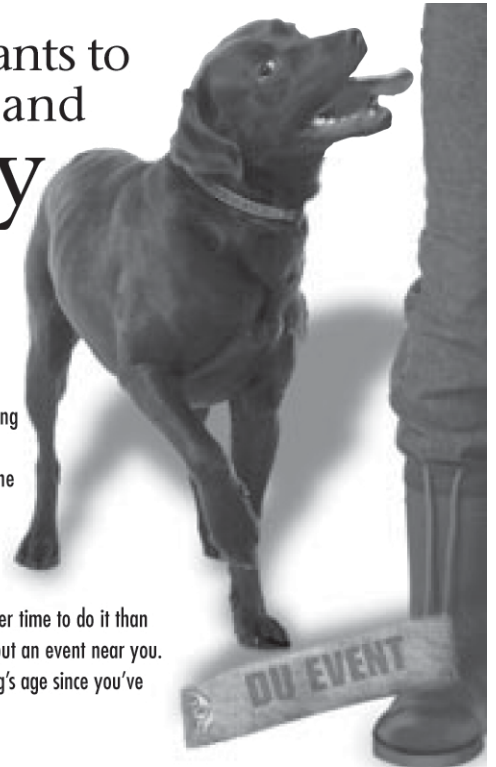
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Growth Rates And Trout Management

Special management areas have been implemented across the province in order to protect and enhance the trout fishery. I think we need them. The data from angler license stubs shows that catch of trout has declined provincially by about 40 percent from the mid 1980s. The reason for this decline has been blamed on over-fishing, competition, and habitat loss. When deciding what regulations to use to improve a fishery, we all strive to use as much site-specific information as possible. However, in many cases there are limited data on the status of a particular population. Our stock assessment budget is limited, and we, therefore, rely on the participation, advice, and recommendations from anglers to better manage the sport fishery. Since the introduction of the new regulations, there have been some questions asked as to why that regulation was used there.

From the angler diary program, we have learned that the catch rate for Halifax County lakes is about one trout per hour, and the average size is about 25 cm or 10 inches. The average trout size is larger in Halifax County compared to other areas (e.g., Cape Breton Highlands), and we think that this indicates that growth rates are relatively high compared to other areas. High growth rates indicate that trout in a small size class will reach a larger size class if they are given the opportunity to grow. My profound statement that big fish come from small fish may leave you wondering just how long I had to go to university before arriving at that conclusion; however, under certain conditions brook trout have the ability to overpopulate, and as a result, growth may suffer and the number of big fish is very small compared to the number of small fish. An example of overcrowding may be found in some Cape Breton Highland lakes where the catch was about five small trout per hour. Special management in this area included an in-

creased bag limit (10 trout) to weed out the population and allow for an increase in growth, and a maximum size limit (9 inches) was used to protect the few large fish in the population.

Where the potential to improve the fishery exists through restrictions, minimum size limits, combined with gear restrictions and reduced bag limits, are the most common methods used in other regions to increase the number of older, larger individuals in the population and establish a trophy fishery. Minimum length limits have been put in place to protect smaller trout and allow them to grow to a larger size before being susceptible to exploitation on a few mainland Nova Scotia lakes and rivers. Gear restriction to lure or fly only (no bait) were used to increase the survival of released fish, because fish caught by bait have a low survival rate after release. A reduced bag limit has also been used to reduce harvest, and potentially allow for more fish to live longer and grow. At this time, in light of the current information available, the regulations should provide anglers with an increased opportunity to catch more large trout and allow more large trout to reproduce in the near future.

The success of such regulations probably depends on the potential of the habitat to support a higher number of large fish, and should be used in situations where an average or good fishery already exists and where a population was considered to be over-fished. Warm waters, acidic conditions, and the presence of bass and pickerel are some main factors that may increase mortality and limit recruitment of young trout into the fishery, despite the presence of restrictive angling regulations. Like my boss has said, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." In these cases properly planned stocking techniques may be the best means to enhance a trout fishery.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources



John MacMillan

To obtain more data on trout populations, staff of the Inland Fisheries Division have been aging trout scales to define growth rates for different areas of the province. As well, several lakes will be selected for intensive study during the next field season to determine the status of trout populations and the potential for enhancement through new regulations. The Inland Fisheries Recreational Fishery Advisory Committee meetings are held in six locations across the province and are important forums for the exchange of information and ideas among anglers regarding the status of the fisheries. The next meeting in your area will be in late fall or early winter. Come on out and say your piece! ♣

John MacMillan is a Biologist for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; E-mail: macmiljl@gov.ns.ca.

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could place tools in the hands of animal rights groups that could keep us from hunting, trapping and angling, make the job of a farmer extremely difficult and prevent the use of animals in important medical research. Some well know international animal rights groups think the bill is O.K. No one that I know disagrees that the old Animal Cruelty legislation's needs improvement, but not to the detriment of those who use animals in a responsible way.

Here are the steps. Go into the Department of Justice site at <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/> and find and read the bill yourself. Do some research on how it will effect us as hunters and send an e-mail to all the government agencies involved especially the Justice Minister Anne McLellan. You remember her don't you, from Bill C-68 fame.

As it stands right now the bill is an all or nothing proposition. We would like to see the bill split and the animal cruelty dealt with separately. If the government thinks

it's that good, let it stand by itself. It's like throwing the baby out with the bath water the other way. The good stuff must go so that the bad stuff can't take hold.

I certainly hope I made my point on getting involved in the future. At one time the expression was "the pen is mightier than the sword". Unfortunately not enough people picked up the pen. I now hope that more of you will see the ease of using the computer for a nobler cause than playing a game of solitaire, and lend your energy to this important cause.

Our fathers and grandfathers were the first environmentalists, they were the first hunters. They were responsible for conserving our wildlife and our hunting heritage. It is now our turn to protect these very things. All that is new is the weapons and the knowledge that we have a determined enemy. The Halifax Herald has a motto that reads in part "... that no good cause shall lack a champion and that wrong shall not thrive unopposed". I wish they would follow those words more closely themselves but this thought reflects how I feel. Make sure that you address some of your correspondence to the letters to the editors in your local papers. Challenge the decisions of editors who like to reflect just one side of an issue.

Pay attention to what your children are learning in schools. If you hear anti-hunting talk ask the teacher or principle

for equal time. If you're not comfortable with this, get a conservation officer or wildlife biologist to speak to the students as your equal time.

When politicians take money from animal rights groups they expose themselves as the bottom feeders they are, and for years very few of us knew who they were because of the process needed to find out. Well not any more. Just go o line and see for yourselves at www.bottomfeeders.com, no sorry that is a tease, try, <http://www.elections.ca>. This site is the federal government's list of who admitted they got what from whom in the last two elections. Check out the International Fund For Animal Welfare as a donator.

Thanks for becoming part of the future of hunting. We are all the descendants of successful hunters. The rest of them froze to death by refusing to wear furs. The instinct to hunt is in all of us, unfortunately it has been suppressed in some and they will never know the joy of being part of nature, first hand. Old dogs can learn new tricks. What a great time to share some time with your children and grandchildren who are computer savvy. Libraries teach computer courses and have them available for public use. Get a free e-mail address like "hotmail". I'm looking forward to hearing from you online.

Please have a safe hunting trip this year. Take a new hunter with you, share a hunting day with a child. Better still, root up an old hunter, dust off his decoys, oil his gun and reintroduce them to their hunting heritage. ↗

Tony Rodgers
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Educating Hunters

By Tom Mason

In an effort to make sure that every hunter gets the most out of this exciting activity and stays safe in the woods at the same time, every new hunter in Nova Scotia is now required to pass the Hunter Education Program, a two-part program that includes the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources

Offered by the Nova Scotia Community College, the Canadian Firearms Safety Course teaches students how to safely use, store, transport and maintain firearms. At the end of the 12- to 15-hour course, students must complete a practical test and a written test with a pass mark of 80 percent. Anyone over the age of 18 who feels they are already proficient in the use of firearms can "challenge" the Firearms Safety Course

and proceed directly to the testing phase.

The second part of the education process is the Hunter Education Course. Rather than focusing specifically on firearms, this course takes a holistic approach, giving new hunters important instruction in things like ecology and wildlife management, hunter ethics and landowner relations, laws and regulations, basic first aid and survival skills, and field techniques. A written test is given at the end of the course with a pass mark of 80 percent.

The Hunter Education Course is offered through the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. For hunters who want to skip the classroom aspect, the course is also available on the Internet or through a home study program. Participants must complete the same written test at the end.

Bowhunters must also take a course, conducted by the Bowhunter Instructors Association of Nova Scotia. Similar to the Hunter Education Course, the Bowhunter Education Course includes instruction on ethical hunting, laws and regulations, equipment, basic survival skills, first aid and safety. It also includes useful hunting tips and instruction. At the end, students

must be able to shoot three out of five arrows into a 30-cm target from a distance of 4.5 to 6.0 metres and pass a written test with a mark of at least 88 percent.

The results of these important courses have been impressive, and the statistics speak for themselves. Since mandatory training for new hunters began 11 years ago, the number of hunting-related injuries and fatalities has dropped 50 percent. More than 1,000 firearms hunters and nearly 300 bowhunters took the courses last year.

For more information on the Hunter Education Program visit this website: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/hunt/hunting.htm or telephone 1-800-731-4000 ext. 6505

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The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters

has a NEW Phone and Fax number

(902) 477-8898



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR HUNTERS

This is a key hunting season in Nova Scotia, since the enforcement of the less than liberal Gun Laws. It is the first year that hunters may be asked to provide a Federal firearm certificate to a peace officer to prove that he/she has been licensed under the new program.

In order to hunt legally this fall, you must have:

- (A.) An old style (but valid) Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) *or*
- (B.) A Possession Only License (POL) *or*
- (C.) A Possession Acquisition License (PAL)

If you don't have any of these licenses and you intend to hunt you will be doing so illegally. Contact the nearest community college for a course schedule.

Please don't take this as a recommendation but rather as a suggestion. If you have already said "screw it" I'm not going to get a license or register my guns than, good luck.

Anyone of these three licenses also is needed to buy ammunition and satisfy Federal regulations and authorities.

To purchase a hunting license you still only need your Firearms Hunting Certificate (FHC). Known in Nova Scotia as the Orange Card.

However you need both documents to hunt legally.

Tony Rodgers



Wild Turkey Introduction



The Department of Natural Resources has received a proposal requesting the introduction of wild turkeys into Nova Scotia. Prior to making a decision on the potential introduction of wild turkeys, the Department is soliciting input from the public and any interested parties.

A copy of the proposal can be viewed at any DNR office or on the DNR website at www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife.

Comments, in writing, must be submitted to:

NS Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division 136 Exhibition Street
Kentville, NS B4N 4E5
or by e-mail to : shawsm@gov.ns.ca

Deadline for comments is Thursday October 25, 2001.

Conservation

A Question Of Feeding Deer

Continued from Summer 2001 issue.

By Tony Nette

How to Properly Feed Deer:

A proper feeding program requires the following essential elements:

1. An efficient delivery system to get food to deer on an established trail network,
2. A method to deliver the food until the end of winter, and
3. An adequate supply of the right type of food.

Where to Feed:

First, make sure you have landowner permission before initiating any feeding program.

Deer must have good quality cover in close proximity to where the food is delivered. It may be tempting to feed them where it is most convenient or entertaining for ourselves. However, the wrong location could result in more harm than good.

First, find where the deer are and what areas they are using as cover. This will likely mean using a snowmobile or walking with snowshoes. Remember, your searching may disturb and stress them which uses energy reserves.

If you don't find their network of trails, pack trails with snowshoes allowing the deer to approach and leave the feeding site from many directions.

What To Feed:

Natural winter food for deer consists primarily of woody browse from hardwood twigs and occasionally needles of balsam fir. The most preferred browse species include: sugar, red, mountain and striped maple; yellow and white birch, witch and beaked hazel and red oak.

Deer have problems with many diets that livestock consume easily. Deer depend on a variety of bacteria and microorganisms in their rumen (stomach) to break

down food. A change in diet requires a change in the population of these microorganisms to process the new food properly. Other problems such as "acidosis" (excess acid buildup in the rumen) and scours (diarrhea) may occur if they are given cereal grains. It is therefore important to gradually introduce artificial feed in an area where natural food is also available.

1. **Natural Food.** If possible, it is best to feed natural food. To do this, cut down a few of the preferred hardwood trees mentioned above. Again, make a number of trails from the new feed to their cover area. Check these trees every few days and turn them so all the branches can be used. The number of trees needed and when to provide more will depend on how many deer there are in the area. In the spring/summer, you can return and cut the same trees for firewood. By doing this you are not only immediately providing food to the deer, but over the next few years a large number of suckers will grow from the stumps and other shrubs and saplings will grow in the clearing you have created. Both short term and long term feeding is accomplished.

2. **Deer Pellets.** Most farm feed outlets carry a specially formulated ration for deer or can tell you where it can be bought. This feed is specially formulated for deer with consideration of their energy, protein and fiber needs, as well as digestibility. At first deer may not recognize these pellets as food but if introduced with small amounts of corn, oats or alfalfa, they will gradually become accustomed to the new food.

3. **Cereal Grains.** Although not as well balanced a diet as Deer Pellets, rolled oats or coarsely milled oats are easily digested and reduce the possibility of problems associated with a sudden diet change. Whole corn and whole oats can also be used and are often readily available. A ratio of

1:1 to 1:4 corn: oats is recommended.

Avoid feeding pure corn, barley or wheat as they are too high in starch and may cause digestive problems leading to death.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources

As with pellets, these foods can be placed in handful amounts on well packed snow ... preferably under conifer trees to prevent being covered with snow. Once the deer have become accustomed to this type of feed, it can be delivered by laying feed bags on the ground and cutting a large panel out on the top side. This will keep the feed together and off the ground, reducing waste. Hoppers like those used to feed domestic cattle or sheep, may also be used.

4. **Hay or Alfalfa.** Caution should be used when feeding hay or alfalfa as deer (especially when in starved condition) may have problems digesting them. Introduce this feed gradually and ensure natural foods are also available.

5. **Fruit and Vegetables.** Although deer will eat apples, carrots, cabbage, etc., their use is not recommended. They are like candy to a child ... tasty but of little value in providing a well-balanced and nutritious diet.

As can be seen, feeding is not just a matter of throwing a few bread crusts off the back porch. If you want to feed deer effectively (to their benefit) ensure you do it properly with the energy and resources to continue until the end of winter.

Continued on page 19

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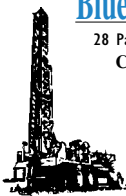
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North American Moose Foundation

The need for an international moose foundation has been discussed among moose managers, biologists and researchers for many years. But great ideas seldom get off the ground until someone with a lot of enthusiasm and energy decides to sacrifice their personal time, talent and effort to make the idea a reality. Ms. Marty Orwig of Sun Valley, Idaho, is that person. This past spring at the 37th North American Moose Conference and Workshop at Carrabassett Valley, Maine, Marty decided to take the bull by the antlers and recruited a core group of dedicated and knowledgeable moose biologists from across the U.S. and Canada. With her skills and past experience as a campaign organizer and fund-raiser, she began pulling the team together, delegating tasks, drafting statements of purpose and objectives, and developing a set of bylaws.

The North American Moose Foundation (NAMF) is now a reality and formally registered as a non-profit corporation. The slate of Officers, Board of Directors and Advisory Committee have representatives from throughout the moose

range of North America ... from Alaska to Arizona, from Yukon to Nova Scotia.

The Foundation's mission is to: "Promote the species; educate the public; conserve habitat and promote the hunting and viewing of Moose." That will be achieved through objectives that include providing financial and administrative support for: moose transplants and re-introductions; data gathering and sharing; surveys and research; habitat improvement projects; providing information on hunting and viewing opportunities; sponsoring guest speakers; holding annual conventions; providing student grants and developing educational packages.

To meet these objectives and become an active and meaningful organization, the Foundation needs a large and active membership across North America. Obviously, to address the broad range of objectives, NAMF requires a significant and consistent annual budget. This will eventually be achieved through innovative fund-raising programs, but at this point start-up and 'seed money' has to be generated through donations and membership fees.

There is a lot to do at this early stage of building an effective organization. In addition to the efforts of volunteer founding members, staff have to be hired and start-up costs covered. Organizational set up, office expenses, filing fees, office equipment/materials, printing newsletters, establishing a website, and developing promotional materials/displays for trade shows and conventions, etc. all cost money and have to be done before the more lucrative fund-raisers can be undertaken. It is easy to see why establishing a moose foundation has been only an idea for so long.

So, why should we in Nova Scotia see it as important to support the new North American Moose Foundation? Aside from simply having a great appreciation for moose and wanting to see them managed in the best possible manner throughout their range, moose of eastern Canada are arguably faced with more threatening long term problems than populations throughout the rest of Canada.

Moose of Nova Scotia (also New Brunswick and Newfoundland) are in a

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somewhat unnatural situation in that they are not associated with timber wolves ... their natural predator. In the early 1900s moose were extirpated from the vast and remote areas of Cape Breton. That was before snowmobiles, ATV and roads into the Highlands. Could it happen again? Why and how it happened before is not fully understood. The herd in Cape Breton today, are descendants of 18 animals brought in from Alberta and released in the late 1940s.

Moose on mainland Nova Scotia are dangerously low in number and recent studies suggest they have very high cadmium levels (likely from acid rain) and are

dying of something we have yet to understand. A large percentage of forested lands here are privately owned and there is a much higher level of access and human caused disturbance than moose range elsewhere. We cannot assume moose will be part of the fauna of Nova Scotia in the future. Not only do we have to ensure that our use of moose is appropriate and sustainable, we have to better understand the species and its habitat requirements to make sure it is given proper consideration in our forest harvest practices, when building roads and developing lands.

NAMF will undoubtedly raise the profile of moose across North America.

A public that is more aware of and knowledgeable about moose, will be more insistent that they are managed properly. If we in Nova Scotia are supportive of the Foundation in membership and contributions, we can expect the Foundation to provide assistance in the future when we need help to address our moose research and management challenges in the years to come. We must also keep in mind that regardless of where studies are carried out on moose, there is an increase in the overall understanding of the species that can be applied throughout its range.

To become a member, make a cheque or money order out to 'North American Moose Foundation, Inc.' and send it to NAMF, 201 Main Street, Suite 5, P.O. Box 30, Mackay, Idaho 83251. One year fees are: \$15 for Students/Senior Citizens; \$30 Individual; \$50 Family; \$100 Charter Member Club, Individual; \$250 Business Member, Outfitter/Guides and \$1,000 Lifetime Membership (Individual). For membership fees, Canadian funds are being accepted on par. Donations are also accepted and very much appreciated. When applying for membership make sure you give your full name and address, phone number and E-mail address if you have one.

We have seen what Ducks Unlimited, The Rock Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and many others have done for their respective species and habitats. You are invited to help make the North American Moose Foundation another success story and be part of securing a bright future for the majestic Moose. ♣

Submitted by Tony Nette, Volunteer Board of Directors - NAMF

North American Moose Foundation Programs



NAMF

Promote the Species:

- Radio Telemetry, purchasing radio and GPS collars for the tracking of Moose, providing better science
- Moose Watcher "call-in" program-gathering biological information and sharing it with appropriate state or provincial Moose specialists.
- 1 Moose surveys
- 1 Hunting, clearinghouse for information about states and provinces that have moose hunting.
- 2 Moose Reintroductions
- 3 Start annual conventions

Education:

- 1 Provide School Grants
- 1 Educational Outreach Programs
- 1 Adopt a Moose Program for schools, seniors, 4-H clubs, et al
- 1 Speakers Bureau

- 1 Field Trips- Mackay, Idaho, NAMF office to be an educational resource.

Habitat Conservation:

- 1 "Rakes and Shovels" – local public volunteer programs to help improve habitat
- 1 Grants for Habitat Improvements
- 1 "Moose off the Highways"- local solutions
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A Walk In The Woods

The woods are too hot to handle : woodlands closure is a necessary precaution.

As you are probably well aware, this past summer our Department of Natural Resources Minister Earnest Fage announced there was



Don Cameron

a province-wide ban on travel in Nova Scotia woodlands. The reason for this dramatic measure is obvious - the remarkable stretch of hot dry weather over the past summer. The unusual dry conditions have driven the forest fire hazard indices to near record levels throughout the province.

In a province where we and our many visiting tourists enjoy getting "out and about" in our bountiful and beautiful natural resources, the travel ban has many negative consequences. The declaration limits what we are able to do and see in and around the forests of Nova Scotia. This decision was not made easily or quickly. As the fire hazard increased toward the peak of the fine weather season and as the number of new forest fires started, it was obvious to DNR forest fire officials that action must be taken to significantly decrease the chance of new fires.

Realistically, along with continuous educational efforts to increase the public awareness of forest fire prevention, the only way of minimizing the chances of new forest fires starting is to keep people away from the "tinder dry forests". Statistically, more than 95 percent of forest fires in our province are caused by people, and only a few by lightning.

This situation is one of those where the benefits of many must be put ahead of a few in deciding that we must try to save the forest from the devastating affects of forest fires by restricting who and how people can travel in and near forested land.

The ban on woods travel means that people are not permitted to enter the woods to travel, camp, fish, picnic, or pick berries unless they are on their own property or have obtained a travel permit from their local

DNR office. People may fish on lakes or large rivers provided they can access them directly from public roads and boat launches. Landowners may also use their own woodlots, but they are advised to exercise extreme caution, especially if they are operating gas powered machines. Obviously, smoking in forest settings is discouraged. Any smoking materials should be completely extinguished.

Hiking and biking trails that do not pass through the woods continue to be open for use. Provincial parks also remain open, however all camp fires are banned and travel into the woods is restricted.

Although we have been blessed with great vacationing and beach weather over the last five summers or so, the hot dry conditions have had negative consequences on some important sectors of our society such as farmers and blueberry producers. Although we have become familiar with hearing that open fires are banned during the summer months, the banning of woods travel is relatively rare. The last time extremely high forest fire hazard caused a province-wide ban on woods travel was in 1998.

During this past summer there have been more than 60 new forest fires, including several large fires (including the 200 acre fire at MacPhee's Corner near Shubenacadie) that were extinguished due to quick, professional response by DNR forest fire personnel and many community volunteer fire brigades.

Although our foreseeable weather forecasts are for continued dry weather and we have received little or no precipitation for a month or so, the woods travel ban could be lifted if we were to receive a significant amount of rainfall. The most effective pre-

cipitation would be a good steady shower lasting 24 hours or more so that it could sink well into lower ground levels. We would also notice a sudden "greening" of lawns and other vegetation which has been stressed by the dry weather.

Thus far this year there have been 344 fires which have burned 394 hectares (973 acres) of woodland. Last year at this time there were 175 fires, consuming 460 hectares (1136 acres - including the large Kingswood fire which burned 200 hectares). For more information on the woods travel ban, contact your local DNR office.

Tree Trivia: Log a load for kids program sponsored by CWF

During the fall of 2000, the Canadian Woodlands Forum became a national sponsor of Log A Load For Kids Canada. This program was established for forestry workers and wood suppliers to donate the value of a load of logs or chips (worth thousands of dollars) to a local hospital affiliated with the Children's Miracle Network. The Network is a charity involved in raising funds for children's hospitals such as the IWK Grace Health Centre in Halifax.

The program dates back to 1988 in the U.S. and has spread to more than 30 states. To date, individuals and businesses in the logging and forest products industry have contributed millions of dollars, with 100 percent of the funds put to work to help children in the area.

For more information on the Log A Load For Kids program, contact Peter Robichaud at 902-897-2568.

Don Cameron is the Information Officer for the Nova Scotia Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

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Think About Ian

By Rob Brown

One September day six years ago, Lisa Dunbar was playing in the driveway of her home with her five year old son Ian. The phone rang. The two of them walked onto the deck. While his mom went inside to take the call, Ian pulled a new, red ball from the pocket of his pants and bounced it on the deck. The ball hit one of the spaces between the boards. It bounced over the handrail and onto the lawn. Ian climbed over the handrail and dropped to a spot on the lawn next to a picnic table to recover it.

Moments later Lisa heard her son's voice. He was calling for her. He was frightened. As she turned and ran toward the door she saw a black dog running across the front lawn. It was headed for the back, towards Ian.

Lisa ran across the deck. She knelt on a bench, reached over the railing, grasped her young son by the shoulders. She looked up. The black beast was loping toward them. It was close. It was not a dog. It was a two hundred and twenty pound black bear intent on making a kill, and it intended to kill Ian.

Lisa had Ian off the ground. In a second she'd have him over the railing. In another second mother and son would have been safely in the house. Lisa didn't have a second. The bear bit into Ian's side and yanked the helpless boy from his mother's arms.

As the bear shook her son from side to side, Lisa leapt onto the beast's back,

screaming, pummeling the animal with her fists. She slid to the ground, grabbed a shovel and broke it over the bear's back; she grabbed a broom and broke that over it too. She hit the bear with a potted plant, then with an aquarium filled with dirt. The bear would not let go. A neighbor rushed out of his house, yelled, "Oh my God, Lisa!" then rushed back into his house for his rifle. The trigger lock was in place. He couldn't find the key.

Lisa crawled onto the bear's back. She dug her fingers into its eyes – dug with strength borne of desperation, strength she didn't know she had. The bear dropped Ian. It roared, shifting from its silent, steely predatory drive to a loud, unfocused rage. Bellowing, the killer chased Lisa, knocking her over after she clambered over the rail. She sprinted for the sliding door only to be pulled to her knees once again when the bear hooked its claws into her braids. Somehow Lisa made it into the house. The forward momentum of the raging bear propelled it past her into the family room. Lisa ran outside. The bear followed, shot past her once more and turned, blocking Lisa's passage to the sidewalk – and her son.

Once more Lisa bolted into the house, the bear a breath away. Before she could shut the glass door, the bear reared up, jammed its back foot on the threshold, stuck its arm in the aperture, and clawed at Lisa, who used most of her new found strength to hold the door, and what remained to hit the bruin's arm.

Ian made a sound, a small sound, but a sound big enough to trigger the cold killer instincts of a predator. The bear turned and bounced toward Ian. Lisa raced after it to fight for her son's life.

Two men in a house a short distance away, heard Lisa's screams. They jumped

in a pickup and drove up the hill. Instantly they grasped the horror of the situation and drove at the bear honking and yelling. Diverted from its deadly purpose again, the bear charged the truck.

One of the men rushed to Lisa and Ian as the driver of the truck held the bear at bay. Lisa gave her son mouth to mouth resuscitation. She felt air leaking out of a wound in his side. Lisa bundled her young son in blankets. The pickup was brought around. When Lisa and Ian were inside, the driver burned out of the yard, leaving the bear there, still huffing and roaring. Lisa held her son lovingly. The tires of the pickup hummed, the engine roared as they sped down the road.

Ten miles from the hospital Ian stopped breathing. The doctors at the hospital tried and tried, but little Ian, who had just started to go to kindergarten, who had so much to do in life, who had done nothing more than climb down from the deck of his home to get his ball from under the picnic table where he had eaten hot dogs with his mom and dad on warm summer evenings, could not be revived.

If they don't know of this specific episode, Martin Melderis, Adrian Juch, Bob Butcher, and Dale Ryan know of, or have witnessed lots of others. Collectively, these men are our Conservation Officer Corps in Terrace.

They cover an area the size of France – all of it bear country. They know that bears are as unpredictable as outlaw bikers on cocaine. When criticizing the actions of our COs in regard to bears, consider this fact, and think about Ian. ♪

Rob Brown, reprinted with permission from The Terrace Standard

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Understanding Trout Habitat In Lakes

By John L. MacMillan

Wow, that sure was a warm, dry summer. As a younger guy, I often wondered what happens to the trout after fishing was so good in the springtime. I thought that most of the fish were caught, and that was why the number of bites declined in summer. This indeed may be the case in some lakes and ponds; however, a change in behaviour associated with increased temperatures may be to blame for a decline in angler success. When temperatures warm, brook trout will tend to swim to cooler water and enter a stage of reduced movement, thus reducing their availability to many anglers.



When I first heard someone mention "hypolimnion", I thought that they could be discussing a pulled muscle rather than

one of the more important habitats for trout in a lake. In early spring, deep lakes become stratified into three main layers: surface (warm), thermocline (transitional), and hypolimnion (cool). The surface layer warms with the changing air temperature, while the deep hypolimnion remains cool throughout the summer. Brook trout, one of the most important sport fish, require cool, well-oxygenated water to survive. The ideal water temperature range for brook trout is 12-16°C, and brook trout avoid temperatures greater than 20°C. Water temperature monitoring in Nova Scotia has indicated that many surface waters in lakes and many rivers can warm to unsuitable levels for long periods (two to three months) in summer. As a result of unsuitable conditions, brook trout could be restricted to areas of cooler water that could be located in small, shaded streams or in the deep water of stratified lakes. Habitat restriction could cause crowding and lead to problems related to predation, competition, and disease and parasite transmission. Wild brook trout do not have the luxury of the care provided by a good hatchery manager, such as Mike MacNeil (McGowan Lake Hatchery) and Darryl Murrant (Fraser's Mills Hatchery), to feed them and protect them while they are in crowded conditions. In the wild, the life

of a trout is much more difficult and high mortality probably occurs during warm low water periods. Many climatologists and biologists predict that many fish and wildlife populations will be reduced if warming trends continue.

There are about sixty-seven hundred lakes in Nova Scotia larger than one hectare in surface area. The Inland Fisheries Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has conducted surveys on about thirteen-hundred lakes in the province. Lake maps with assessment and stocking information are available to the public at a small cost. Lake surveys include an assessment of fish species and habitat conditions during a one-day or a two-day period in summer. With the realization that habitat can change during the summer, the next step was to assess changes in the habitat conditions over a longer period. During the summer, declines in oxygen levels in the cool, deep hypolimnion habitat can occur in a lake. The rate of decline in dissolved oxygen may reflect the amount of nutrients or other factors in a lake. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrates can enter the system because of poor land use practices that are often associated with forestry, agricultural, sewage treatment, and other development activities. The addition of nutrients to the lake or inflowing streams can lead to very low dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion, thus resulting in a decline in the suitable habitat for brook trout in a lake in summer. The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Nova Scotia Power, and Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, are sponsoring a project to assess the rate of depletion of oxygen in the hypolimnion and to develop ways in which to predict the impacts of nutrient loading on a trout habitat. Dr. Michael Brylinsky, Research Scientist at the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, Acadia University, and Jonathan Lowe, Master of Science student, Acadia University, are working on the project with staff from the Inland Fisheries Division. The project should provide useful information to assess the current status of a trout habitat in Nova Scotia lakes and the potential for enhancement of habitat and fish populations. ▶

John L. MacMillan is a Biologist, Inland Fisheries Division for Nova Scotia Agriculture and Fisheries; E-mail: macmiljl@gov.ns.ca.

Conservation...

Continued from page 13

Other Recommendations:

- Start early in winter to allow deer the ability to find and become accustomed to the new feed and for their rumen microorganisms to adjust.
- Use the same feed throughout winter.
- Provide food at a number of locations to ensure all have a chance to feed. This will also minimize aggression.
- Keep the feed dry if using pellets or cereal grains. Wet feed will likely not be consumed.
- Ensure a constant supply of feed is provided. Check after each snowfall

that the feed is not covered.

- Increase the amount of feed available in late winter when need is the greatest and activity levels have increased.
- As spring approaches and snow is no longer deep, or if deer are no longer coming to the site, feeding should be discontinued.

It is a difficult and expensive task to feed deer in winter, and it may not achieve the desired results. However, if you decide to take up the challenge, by following this advice, deer should realize the most benefit.

For more information on feeding deer in winter or woodlot management for the benefit of deer and other wildlife, contact the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist for your area. ▶

Tony Nette is a Large Mammal Biologist, with the NS Department of Natural Resources.

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McLellan Myth #3 – Bragging about the 2 million gun owners who applied for licences.

The Truth Is:

1. The Minister is actually hiding the fact that even her previously flawed surveys (showing between 3.3 and 3.8 million gun owners in Canada) were closer to the truth than the most recent survey that produced the numbers she's using now. The truth is there are likely more than a million non-compliant gun owners, rather than the 320,000 the government now admits to.

2. Gun owners planning to ignore the gun registry are highly unlikely to answer questions honestly when posed by a stranger over the phone claiming they're doing a survey for the federal government. Even the government's own Firearms Safety Course says it's a duty of a firearm owner not to tell anyone they own guns because it invites theft.

3. This is how ridiculous the Minister's claims are. If the federal government is convinced they can get civil disobedient citizens to admit to their actions over the phone they shouldn't have any trouble catching the millions of people who cheat on their taxes. – just pretend you're doing a survey for the government and ask them!

4. During the election last fall, I estimate that half of the gun owners I talked to in my own constituency were not aware that they had to have a firearms licence by January 1, 2001. The fact is that the government's advertising was misleading. The ads said you needed a firearm licence to buy ammunition. Most gun owners don't use their guns and don't

need ammunition so they ignored the government ads. This is called "official misdirection" and an excellent defence if they are ever charged.

McLellan Myth #4 – Misleading Canadians by implying that the Justice Department is working with those who do not have licences.

The Truth Is:

1. The fact is she does not have the legal means to work with someone who is already in violation of the law unless she brings in an amnesty to protect these individuals from criminal prosecution. If the Minister is "working" with these new criminals that she created, then she is also breaking the law by not following an Act of Parliament (see section 126 of the Criminal Code).

2. As I pointed out in my question, these people are in a Catch-22 situation. If they apply for a Possession and Acquisition Licence and then try to register the guns they already own, the gun cops will be asking where, when and how they acquired the guns. The police will do this because they can't acquire guns without a licence. Nor can you transfer a gun to someone else without it first being registered.

3. As a result, non-licensed gun owners are damned if they do not and damned if they don't. If the Minister were being truly honest, she would immediately announce an amnesty for these 320,000 (or so) non-compliant gun owners.

McLellan Myth #5 – Implying that the gun laws apply to all Canadians **equally**.

The Truth Is:

1. The Minister has granted relaxed rules for Aboriginals and foreign hunters and sport shooters visiting Canada.

2. If these relaxed gun safety rules for Aboriginals and foreign visitors are good enough to protect the public from the misuse of legally owned firearms then these rules should be offered equally to all other Canadian firearms owners. Isn't that what the Charter right to equality means? Isn't that what plain-old common sense would dictate? ▶

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001

WHAT IF I DON'T GET MY LICENSE BY HUNTING SEASON?

Police and conservation officers have discretion in enforcing the law. If there is an infraction police officers can query the license data base to determine the status of a person's license application. There is no intention to penalize people who applied for a firearms license.

– Nadia Gardin
Communications Officer Provincial Firearms Office

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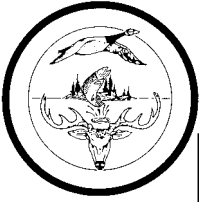
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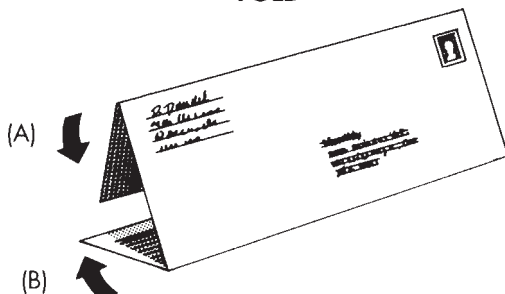
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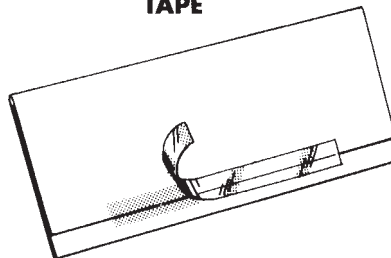
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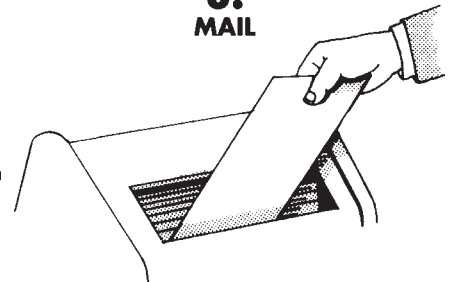
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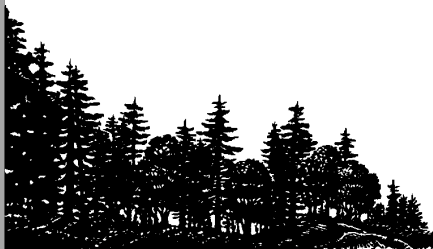
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