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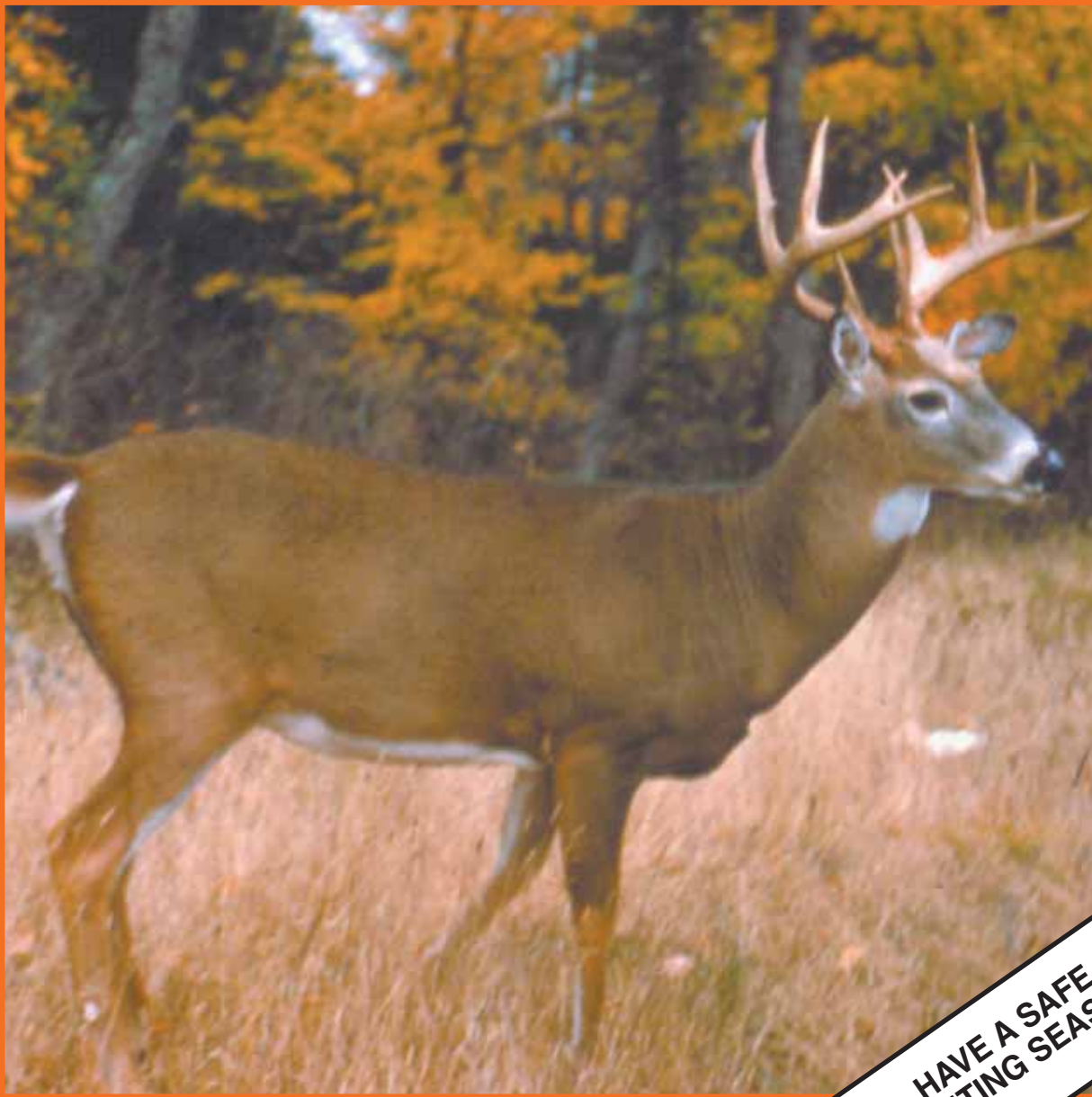
**VOLUME 11, NO. 4
FALL 2002**

**GPS and
Sportsmen**

**Cornwallis
Pollution**

Random Casts

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



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NOVA OUTDOORS

FALL 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letters to the Editor		Random Casts	
_____	4	<i>by Don MacLean</i>	12
President's Message		Interesting Point About The Queen Mum	
<i>by Gary Penney</i>	5	<i>Submitted by Charles Dillabough</i>	13
Executive Director's Voice		This Reflects on Many Things	
<i>by Tony Rodgers</i>	6	_____	14
A Walk in the Woods		A Walk in the Woods	
<i>by Don Cameron</i>	7	<i>by Don Cameron</i>	17
GPS and Sportsmen		Some Facts About Maple Syrup	
<i>by Ken Kane</i>	8	<i>by George H. Cook</i>	17
Cornwallis Pollution		N.S. Federation of Anglers and Hunters	
<i>by Ed Coleman</i>	10	Order Form	21
The Importance of Fish Tagging			
<i>by Jason LeBlanc</i>	11		

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To place your ad in the next issue (Winter, 2002) 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.

We welcome letters to the Editor, however we remind you to please limit them to 200 words or less.

Nova Outdoors

Official Publication of the
Nova Scotia Federation
of Anglers and Hunters



Vol. 11, No. 4
Fall, 2002
**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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Letters To The Editor

Dear Readers:

From time to time we must remind readers that letters to the editor must be kept to 200 words or less. We appreciate your comments and suggestions, but we have limited space. We will try and print that message in each edition.

A recent letter criticizing Tony Rodgers was over 1,400 words long. James O'Brien of Halifax claimed that the Federation is seeking open ATV use in all of the 31 Wilderness areas among other things. This is not their position. Individual management plans for each area must be developed and implemented quickly for the protection of these areas. However to be effective, these plans must have input from all users and be enforceable.

Editor

ATV Adventures

Dear Editor:

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are extremely popular in Nova Scotia and are great for work and play. Unfortunately, accidents involving ATVs are on the rise. Too many people, especially children and young adults, have needlessly lost their lives due to careless ATV use.

The Medical Society of Nova Scotia wants all riders to keep a few things in mind to ensure their safety when riding an ATV.

Wear the proper safety equipment: eye protection, gloves, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants and boots with low heels. Don't forget the most important piece of protective equipment - a safety-certified, well-fitting helmet. Wear bright clothing to increase your visibility - espe-

cially during hunting seasons.

If you are a parent, make sure your child is safe. Be aware of the age restrictions for ATV use in Nova Scotia. According to the Off-Highway Vehicle Act, children under the age of 14 must be supervised by an adult when riding an ATV. Not all children, even if they are old enough, have the strength, size or skills needed to use an ATV safely.

Your best bet to ensure your safety, and that of your family, is to take a training course. Contact your local ATV association for more information or visit www.ATVANS.com.

Happy riding!

Sincerely,

*Robert M. Miller, MD, FRCPC
President of the Medical Society of
Nova Scotia*

Editor:

After reading Aaron Kyle's comment about registering his shotgun in Oct., 2001, at the end of his "Let 'em have it" article in the April issue, I thought I'd pass on my experience.

Following the Supreme Court's decision to pay no attention to opponents of Bill C-68, I grudgingly decided to apply to register my firearms at the same time I applied for a Possession Licence. This was in July, 2000. I received the licence in October, 2000. However, despite a couple of follow-up phone calls, and an e-mail, I only received the cards for my rifles and shotguns in June, 2002. I am still waiting for a handgun to be registered, despite assurances that all were being processed at the same time. I received a letter with the other cards saying they were still processing the info on it. One would think this would have been the easy one, given that it had been registered since I bought it about 15 years ago,

and the exercise was supposed to be just a re-registration/update of personal info, according to Bill C-68!

I also received a new Possession Licence dated 2002 to replace the one issued in 2000, but the expiry date was unchanged. And just imagine my disgust when a fellow registered his soldering and glue guns in just a few weeks!!

All is running smoothly at the CFC.

Larry McLeod

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

*PS: Aaron should not expect his
registration cards anytime soon.*

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President's Message

It's hard to believe as I write this message that summer is over and fall is upon us. With that in mind, thoughts will be focusing on the upcoming deer harvest season and other game hunts. Early preparation can result



Gary Penney

in a more enjoyable experience and sometimes successful hunting adventure. I'll come back to this further on in the article.

So far my term as president has been busy and informative, at least to me - I'll attempt to bring you up-to-date on some issues.

May was a particularly busy month. I was invited to a Kings County Fish and Game meeting at Kentville. They have an active membership with a number of projects ongoing, from school room fish incubators to commercial control problems. They also had a display of the history of their club that was very interesting along with artifacts. This brings a point to mind of how many of our associations and clubs have an actual contained history of themselves? Some go back a lot of years with a colourful past.

Tony Rodgers; past president Gerry Blom, and myself, attended a meeting in May with Federal Fisheries Minister Honourable Theriault. We presented the Minister with a brief identifying 10 points of our concern, and requested written replies to them. To date we are waiting for these replies. Also "Thank-you" to Gerry Blom for attending and doing the introductions.

Also in May, I attended the Queens County Fish and Game annual meeting in Liverpool. Now there is an active club. If anything is happening in Queens County or surrounding area that affects habitat or wildlife, you can bet Queens County Fish and Game are in on it, or will be. They are active in issues of land

development affecting fish streams; Tobeatic Management; kiack nets in Medway River; clam harvesting; and the list goes on and on. Wildlife and habitat will survive with "watch dog" and solution participants as this organization practices.

In June I attended Noel Shore Fish and Game Protection Associations 25th anniversary barbeque at the Densmore's place. It was most interesting to hear the history of this club and its beginning. A number of ethical sport hunters were concerned over the severe poaching that was happening in the area at that time, so they got together and formed the club, thus named Noel Shore Fish and Game Protection Association. Working together for wildlife protection, they succeeded in getting control of reducing poaching activities.

Also in June was the Canadian Wildlife Federation meeting in Moncton. Also attending with me was Tony Rodgers, an excellent opportunity for both of us to be up-to-date with across Canada wildlife issues from chronic wasting disease to declining salmon stock in the Atlantic. As a side bar issue at this meeting was a topic near and dear to all hunters hearts, the gun law lobby and Ontario Federation Hunters and Anglers lead approach to this issue, and revival of the so called National Coalition of National and Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Federations.

In July, Tony Rodgers, Scott Cook and myself, met with Provincial Fisheries Minister, Ernie Fage. A good meeting with much discussion on issues such as fish hatcheries and the "Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) between Provincial and Federal Fisheries, now some 14 years in the process. The M.O.U. is now back to Federal Fisheries in Ottawa for completion before signing, we hope! Also the hot topic that particular week was the Sackville River fish kill that had occurred. Government was just getting involved in this disasterous incident and promised quick action. We also discussed

with the Minister the reactivating of the Minister's fish advisory group.

In July, I visited the Hibernia Guides Camp in Queens County where the youth camp and conservation camp was being held. What a fantastic opportunity for youth to be educated in wildlife, habitat, and outdoor skills and having a great time in sportsmanship. Here kids learn everything from survival skills to tree identification, to species habitat, and everything in between including canoeing. And based on my experience at camps, only second to the great time being had by all, is the food served. When I talked to the campers it was obvious to me all these essentials were being met. Congratulations to the camp staff and organizers for making this youth experience a good one.

Well, that about brings you up-to-date on my whereabouts and issues, not to mention some 30 or so phone calls of individual issues that are good to hear about even if I can't resolve them all.

Back to the upcoming game harvesting seasons. As I previously mentioned, prepare early and avoid disappointment and frustration. From easy things like checking over your hunting clothes; do they still fit, good condition, need cleaning, and of course are they safe? Is the hunter orange faded and no longer legal colour? Check firearms and bows, do they need maintenance and repair? Gunsmiths become very busy this time of year. If you plan to hunt a new area this year, check it out early, get a map of the area, talk to someone who knows the area well, and don't forget the compass and how to use it. Go and return *Safely*.

Last, but not least, have a good time this fall, enjoy the outdoors, experience wildlife and respect the habitat it lives in. If you have the opportunity, share the experience by taking a young enthusiast with you, it will enhance your experience.

Yours In Wildlife, Gary Penney

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Executive Director's Voice



Well the count down is on. December 31 is approaching quickly. This is the last deadline to be met by government in the Canadian Firearms and Other Weapons legislation, the Firearms Registration section.

It has been a long miserable road for many of us who chose to deal with this bill head on, especially those who took the time to attend rallies, write their members of parliament and inform neighbours and friends about the short-sighted content of this legislation.

But now it is time to take aim at what we are going to do next. Few people or groups have worked as hard as this Federation to keep you informed about the stages of the debate over C-68. At every step of the road we have tried to keep you advised about developments in the act and the attempts that we were making to soften the blow of this legislation.

Some battles were won, but the war to kill the bill was lost, as Canadian voters kept on electing majority Liberal governments. It's hard to defeat even bad law when it is supported by votes.

Unfortunately, this law may be a turning point in the lives of many up to now law abiding Canadians. Having spoken to thousands of people over the past seven years, I know that some of you will now go underground with your unregistered firearms. That's your choice, but please consider these points during this final period.

For a couple of minutes separate yourself from your situation and imagine the position your family and friends will be in after you have passed away and they are in receipt of your guns.

After December 31, these firearms

will be illegal. Chances are your family will have to give them up to police anyway or run the risk of being in position of illegal guns.

The government has placed us all between a rock and a hard place on this issue and I'm the last one to want to give in, but, what other choice, except out and out civil disobedience do we have.

The Federation of Anglers and Hunters has taken a position of not promoting civil disobedience among hunters and other members of the gun community in general, and we continue to do so. The only suggestion we have made is that people wait till the last moment to register, the same way you did during the licensing period. I will be completing my registration for my family and myself on or about December 1.

Those of you who chose not to register must also be ready for future hunting seasons of looking over your shoulders. Something I'm sure you never had to do before. Believe me I don't envy you in that decision.

The work of conservation officers and others who help protect our natural resources will become more risky because the need to fight or flight may become more prevalent in the woods. It's not just a wildlife act violation, it is a criminal code infractions. Although I'm told that conservation officers will be looking for pro-

vincial requirements when they check hunters, many of them travel with Federal officers while on patrol and they will have no qualms about checking for a POL, PAL, FAC.

I'm also concerned that wildlife conservation in this province and indeed Canada may take a hit when you do go underground. I expect fewer hunting licenses to be sold. That means fewer dollars into government coffers. I also expect that less money will be spent in rural convenience centers because of the need to hide your activities, and those dollars will be lost to the rural economy.

On the other side of the coin many people have already taken advantage of the forms that were mailed to their home, and sent the gun registration information in. Did anybody notice that there is no place to sign those documents to testify that the information is accurate. I find that interesting that the government would not require that.

The cost associated with firearm registration is still \$18.00 for all of your guns and rifles if you use the conventional method of mailing them in. However, if you chose to go online it's free. That seems a bit unfair. If you can afford a computer and have the skills to use it, no charge. If you don't have a computer and you can lick a stamp it's \$18.00.

Maybe there is a way we can help one another. This is only a suggestion for those who are so inclined. People with computers might just be able to save your neighbour, relative or hunting buddy the cost by going online for him or her and registering their firearms that way. This is a two way street and it's dealing with something very personal. Don't just let anyone know what kind and how many

Continued on next page

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A Walk In The Woods

Proper Use Of ATV's

By Don Cameron

Most people have an opinion regarding the use of all terrain vehicles. It seems as time goes by that most either love them or hate them. Which ever side you sit on, it is important to recognize that these machines are here to stay, in fact there are tens of thousands of ATV's currently in the province.



The following is adapted from a publication aimed at improving the use and minimizing the negative impacts of all terrain vehicle use. It was a cooperative venture, produced by Nova Forest Alliance, Trout Unlimited Canada, Kimberly-Clark, Barrett Lumber Company, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, All Terrain

Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission, and Eastern Woods and Waters.

All-terrain vehicles are great for hauling a log, carrying a load, getting you to your favorite spot or fishing hole, or seeing the countryside, and each year more Canadians are climbing on-board. However, there are a few key things that must be kept in mind in order to ensure that ATV riders stay safe, enjoy themselves, and protect the delicate balance between the natural environment and human activity. Responsible ATV activities should observe the following guidelines:

Safe Riding Practices

Accidents involving ATVs are on the rise. Careless ATV use has needlessly claimed many lives. Here's a few tips to help make your ATV riding safe and enjoyable. Remember, it is the safe rider that makes ATV use safe. The following applies to you if you drive an ATV:

- Take a training course. Contact your local ATV association for more information.
- Never lend your ATV to anyone who has not taken a training course, or who has not been driving an ATV for at least a year.
- Wear the proper safety gear: eye protection, gloves, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, and boots with low heels. The single most important piece of protective gear you will wear is a safety certified, well-fitting helmet.
- Ride one person per ATV. These machines are designed for one person. Carrying a passenger may upset the balance.
- Never operate an ATV under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Never operate an ATV on pavement. ATVs are not designed to be used on paved surfaces and may be difficult to control.
- If you are a parent, you must ensure your child is safe: Not all children have

Continued on page 18

Executive Director's Voice...

Continued from previous page

firearms you have. One of the dangers we have had with registration and a prediction associated with the law is that eventually the criminal element will be able to break into firearm storage computers and steal valuable firearm knowledge. Let's not help them by giving out the information; first be sure of the person helping you.

After you have made up your mind to register or help someone else register, type in the following e-mail address

<http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca/en/e-service/> and follow the instructions.

But spending the \$18.00 does give you the satisfaction of making those SOB's at the Canadian Firearm Center earn their money by typing or scanning in the information.

Good luck with whatever decision you make. I know it is hard on all of us. Those who have studied the law realize it will never accomplish what the government had intend it to do; just to remind you that was "Crime Control", or yea they changed that to "Safety" didn't they, and remember if it saves just one life. The problem is it may only save one life, while thousand of other lives will not have the benefit of the misspent 1 Billion dollars.

One billion dollars translates into thousands of extra police in cars on the street, two EH101 Search and Rescue Helicopters or an MRI for every Federal

riding in Canada. Am I bitter, no I'm not, just upset with the (small L) liberal media that didn't have the guts or investigative ability to expose this Canadian lie, called Gun Control.

My next step is to join the Liberal Party of Canada before next February so I can help decide their next leader who I hope is not my next leader.


Do you believe that a different government can reverse this bill? I do. I have to, so that I can have something to believe in. The future of wildlife conservation in this country is still carried in the pockets of the people who have for the past century supported conservation - hunters and anglers. If we stand by and let their participation slide away then nature will lose. Hunters pay for Conservation, if we lose them for any reason we all lose. 🐾

Tony Rodgers
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GPS And Sportsmen

By Ken Kane

In the thousands and thousands of years that man has walked the earth, there have been many inventions that have had a major impact on how humans were able to interrelate with their environment. Certainly some inventions have a larger impact than others. The ability to manufacture such things as clothing, food and housing materials has made it possible for the human population to spread out and live in harsh environments throughout the year. Unlike some animal species that must migrate to warmer climates for either food or warmth, or else perish, man can exist as a result of his ability to create.

Some inventions, although quite important, make it easier for man to travel in his environment, but are not a necessity to life. Different modes of transportation evolved over the millennia and with them came the need for navigation (*methods of determining ship's or aircraft's position and course by geometry and astronomy*). Early navigators used the stars, then came the compass, then in the early 20th century came radio based navigation systems such as Loran. In the last decade or so a new navigation system has been developed that far surpasses all earlier navigational aides. This latest development is of course the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Now, for less than the price of a good pump shotgun, for less than even a small outboard motor, sportsmen can have a device that will tell them their location, to within meters, anywhere on earth! This small hand-held device may well spell the end of the word "lost" in human communications. Trails, maps, road signs and other contraptions evolved to keep man from losing his way. Now



Ken Kane

comes the GPS, which makes all of these devices considerably less useful. The fear and inconvenience of being "lost" has kept man on the trails, made him use maps and to pay attention to road signs. Now sportsmen (and of course women) can become "free spirits", not afraid to leave the trail, not afraid to cross a big stretch of water, hoping that fog won't move in, and not afraid to move about their environment after dark. Of course long before the invention of the GPS, outdoor enthusiasts, with the knowledge of their territory, how to use a map and/or compass, combined with self-confidence, could travel with security anyplace they wished

Now the GPS just makes it soooo much easier.

As with any tool, be it a simple metal bar, which is attracted to the North Magnetic Pole, or an electronic unit with various navigational outputs, the user must learn how to confidently use and rely upon it. Once learned, the GPS becomes an outstanding human aide that brings traveling in the outdoors to a whole new level. Confidence and reliability of the GPS system makes outdoor pastimes so much more pleasurable. Just using the GPS itself has produced several new "games" that use the precise location data that the GPS provides.

So how can sportsmen make use of this amazing new device? There are many and varied reasons why you may wish to return to a precise location. Suppose you are somewhere in the middle of a big lake and find a shoal that produces some wonderful fish. Suppose you are deep in the woods somewhere and have downed a deer. Yes you can use a compass to "tri-

angulate" your position on the lake. Yes you can use "trail" tape, or blaze some trees to help you return to your deer. But the GPS makes this action so much easier, by simply taking a position "fix", storing it into memory and thereby permitting you to return to this location, within meters, anytime you desire. Remarkably, the GPS can do this, and many other tasks, during daytime, nighttime, fog time, rain or snow time, anytime you desire. As long as it can "see" the satellites to receive their radio signal, and as long as it has battery power.

These "fixes", which are put in to memory, are commonly called Waypoints or Landmarks. It is the precise location data, in Latitude/Longitude, or UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator), affixed to each Waypoint that is used by the GPS to make calculations to relate how far it is from one Waypoint to another. It will indicate the compass bearing to follow to get there, and if you are moving, the GPS will indicate how fast you are moving. When in motion, the GPS, based on your current speed, gives an estimate of your time of arrival (ETA). Several navigation "screens" are accessible to help keep the user traveling in the correct direction. If you stray off the correct bearing, the GPS will tell you how far off you have wandered and give a new bearing to take you to the desired Waypoint. An Alarm setup can be used to have the GPS give an audible and/or a visual Alarm when you are within a user set distance from whatever Waypoint that the operator is headed for.

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However a GPS does much more than take "fixes". When you are traveling it keeps a record of where you have been by means of a Track screen. This particular screen will show your wanderings and if desired can be converted into a BackTrack. The Backtrack is, in GPS language, a type of Route. This kind of Route is one that is made automatically by the GPS (after selecting the BackTrack command). The user can also make his own Route from known Waypoints by entering the Lat/Long info as part of a Route. The GPS will follow this Route for the user, keeping him on track, giving speed of travel, ETA's, direction of travel and distances. Upon arrival at the end destination, if Reverse is selected, it will automatically select the Waypoints in reverse order to bring you back to the starting point. Another very useful feature named Projection can be selected to have the GPS tell you what distance and bearing it is from one location to another. For a user that has learned how to use his GPS correctly, it is hard to imagine how they might become "lost".

There are different types of GPS units. The basic non-mapping unit, of which the Magellan 315 is typical and popular, can of course take Fixes, make

Routes, and all of the other features listed above. A mapping unit has a map screen where the user can view and navigate by using a map downloaded into the GPS. These types of units are of course much more expensive and usually physically larger. There are now many new vehicles fitted with an onboard GPS. The user does not have much control over these units but they are very useful for extensive travelers. Now you can get a GPS wristwatch and soon a cell phone with a built in GPS. The list of GPS driven products is still growing.

But a GPS does more yet. For hunters and fishermen it gives sunrise and sunset times (to help keep you legal). For romantic types it gives moon rise and set times. For those that believe in them there is the Solar Lunar Tables that indicate the best time periods of the day to go hunting and fishing. Many GPS include pre-loaded data such as cities, marine aids and various other points of interest. Electronic compasses are now included in some GPS,



and more bells and whistles are being added all the time. A GPS is not just the latest "toy", but a very serious navigational aide. Sportsmen now have available a device which allows them to move precisely and painstakingly throughout their environment.

Next time – Using GPS and Map, and GPS games. 🦄

Ken Kane is a 12 year Hunter Education Instructor who lives near Hubbards. kjkane@ns.sympatico.ca

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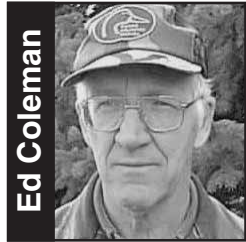
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Cornwallis Pollution: An Old, Tragic Story

By Ed Coleman

When I read the newspaper report from Earthwild International that the Cornwallis River is one sick stream, I wasn't surprised. The Cornwallis has been polluted for decades. I take no delight in pointing out that I've been writing about and documenting the causes of the pollution in articles for at least 30 years.



At first glance the article in the daily paper about the Cornwallis gives the impression that the pollution is something relatively new. However, the pollution is an old and tragic story. Reporting on a massive trout kill in the Cornwallis in August, 1968, for example, I quoted wildlife officers who laid the blame on an overflow from the sewer system. Research showed that at the time the Berwick system was inadequate, and had been contaminating the Cornwallis for a decade.

Again in 1973 and in 1985, inadequacies in the Berwick sewer system lead to fish kills in the Cornwallis. The 1985 overflow, when highly toxic levels of ammonia were released into the river, made the provincial news. I reported at the time that due to the spill, several kilometres of river were dead and there was a great trout kill.

In March, 1989, there was a glimmer of hope that finally some action would be taken on eliminating or at least reducing pollution in the Cornwallis. I reported in my column of March 14 that

several sources of pollution had been clearly identified. However, it turned out that no action was taken on eliminating the pollution. Among the sources of pollution named in a report released by a committee formed to clean up the Cornwallis were various farm operations. "On a number of sites in Kings County," I said in a follow-up column, "human waste, slaughterhouse effluent and manure are flowing into the Cornwallis River."

After writing a number of columns through the 1970s and 1980s about pollution in the Cornwallis there was little change. On May 22, 1990, I reported that the Cornwallis was still polluted in a 15-mile stretch from Berwick to Kentville.

I've rehashed the history of pollution in the Cornwallis to make a couple of points. First, the Cornwallis has been polluted for decades, despite the impression given by the announcement from Earthwild International that all of a sudden we have a catastrophic situation in the Valley that should be addressed.

Second, I have to disagree with Trout Nova Scotia president George Taylor, quoted in the announcement that people have "become apathetic, simply accepting that the river is polluted." This simply isn't true. Various wildlife and conservation groups have fought long and hard to have the Cornwallis River cleaned up. Foremost among them has been the Kings

County Wildlife Association and the Friends of the Cornwallis River.

At the risk of blowing my own horn, I must point out to Mr. Taylor that since I started to fish the Cornwallis some 40 years ago, I've penned 14 columns and several magazine articles on the Cornwallis River pollution. In dozens of other columns since 1965 I've promoted the angling opportunities offered by the Cornwallis, which at one time was one of the most productive rivers for its size in Canada.

What Mr. Taylor should have said is that action on cleaning up the Cornwallis has been tragically slow in coming. Ironically, the very group most responsible for polluting the river, the farmers along the Cornwallis watershed, will likely succeed where conservation groups have failed. In other words, now that the agricultural industry realizes it can no longer use the Cornwallis as its private chamber pot, we'll probably see some positive moves on cleaning up the river. ♣

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

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The Importance Of Fish Tagging In Fisheries Management

By Jason LeBlanc

Consider some of the items in your wallet; a driver's license, credit cards, a library card, health cards, or a gallery of photographs. We all carry an anthology of identification or marks that distinguishes us among the billions of humans on the planet. We carry these marks because we wish to be identifiable. Researchers have been marking or tagging animals for hundreds of years and in many different ways for similar reasons.



A speckled trout tagged with a carlin tag.
Photo by Jason LeBlanc.

Izaak Walton wrote in 1653 that "stream watchers" tied ribbons to the tails of Atlantic salmon. Since that time tagging technology has evolved and ranges from simple fin clipping to advanced tags such as radio and satellite telemetry. Other types of marks and tags for fish include carlin, floy, spaghetti, dart, anchor, disc, button, strap and hydrostatic tags. Advanced tagging techniques include freeze banding with carbon dioxide, dyeing,

fluorescent grit marking, ololith banding, ultrasonic transmitters, radiotelemetry, genetic and chemical marking. This wide range of tagging techniques that have been developed has been driven by the wide diversity of animals to be marked. Birds are banded on their legs, grizzly bears and sea turtles carry radio transmitters, and monarch butterflies have been banded with delicate mylar patches that have allowed scientists to identify wintering grounds in Mexico. Even rocks and tree trunks have been marked so researchers could follow their passive movements downstream.

Marking and tagging has proven to be an essential way to collect data and is important in such fisheries management issues as stock contribution or use, fish growth, fish movement (migration), fish survival and population estimation. Tagging can provide the basis for regulation and allocation of harvest of wild stocks, and tagging hatchery reared fish before their release is important in evaluating the stocking contribution to any related fishery. The recovery of tagged fish allows for validation of growth analysis techniques from selected populations as well as identifying individuals as they mingle with other populations. Marking has uncovered large-scale migrations of fishes throughout the world. Mortality can be estimated from marked individuals by measuring the rate of harvest based on tag returns. One of the most familiar uses of fish tagging is the mark-recapture estimation of

abundance that also may allow fisheries managers to define acceptable harvest levels or look at trends in populations over time.

Obtaining Scales and Measuring Length

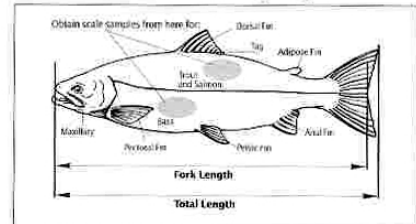


Image courtesy of Inland Fisheries Division.

The most common types of tags used by fisheries scientists are carlin tags and floy tags. Carlin tags consist of a small piece of plastic which contains a number and return mailing address. These tags are usually attached with a small piece of wire or monofilament at or near the dorsal fin of fish such as trout and salmon. Floy tags or T-bar tags are more commonly used on smallmouth bass and perch and consist of a small piece of vinyl tubing attached with plastic which also contain a number and return address.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regularly tag fish throughout the province as part of their management programs. If you catch a tagged fish, please note the tag number and color and date and place of capture. Additional information that is useful to collect if possible is the length of the fish and a sample of scales. The tagging information you contribute is appreciated and helps improve our knowledge of fish populations.

Jason LeBlanc, Fisheries Biologist,
Nova Scotia Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries.



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Random Casts

By Don MacLean

John Cosseboom-Fly Tyer

Atlantic salmon are often considered to be the King of freshwater sport fish. To catch the King early fly tyers developed flies equally as expensive and rare, and to this end they incorporated materials from all over the world. From jungle cock in India to African bustard or South American macaw, all provided feathers to make incredibly beautiful, but equally complex salmon flies. When early settlers began to fish the rivers of North America they soon found out that the King of fish would rise to a fly tied with feathers from the barnyard rooster and some hair from the milk cow just as readily as to the classic patterns. This development of hair wing salmon flies as they became known, is a North American innovation that continues today.

While there are thousands of hair wing patterns available to anglers, a few original flies remain whose influence on the sport continues to this day. These flies were developed by a handful of early fly tyers who are giants in the history of salmon angling. One of the best was John Cosseboom, a poet, newspaper writer, champion fly-caster and insurance executive who lived in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Cosseboom made yearly trips to Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in pursuit of fish, and was a regular visitor to the Margaree River. In 1922, while on the Margaree, Cosseboom tied the first version of the fly that would bear his name. The fly, which originated as a streamer to imitate a green caterpillar, caught a lot of salmon and rapidly became a success. Today it remains one of the most popular patterns in North America.

Colonel Joe Bates in his book, *The Art of the Atlantic Salmon Fly*, suggested that the Cosseboom suffers from the trend of changing the original dressing into numerous variations of different colours, none of which match the original in effectiveness. Today there are red, black, silver and yellow variations of the original but most salmon anglers agree the original pattern remains the best.

Although he passed away in 1935 John Cosseboom lives on through his flies as well as the Margaree Salmon Museum which has a display on his life. The display, called the Cosseboom Corner, contains a painting and photographs of him on the Margaree as well as his fishing hat complete with an assortment of his flies. If you are an salmon angler or a fly tyer it is definitely worth a visit.



The Cosseboom Fly:

Thread: Red

Tag: Embossed silver

Tail: Olive green floss cut short

Body: Olive green floss

Rib: Embossed silver tinsel

Wing: A small bunch of grey squirrel tail

Hackle: Lemon yellow hackle tied in as a collar

Donald A. MacLean is the Assistant Director Inland Fisheries Division for Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Pictou, NS.

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Interesting Point About The Queen Mum

I was watching a documentary about the life and times of the Queen Mum last night, and the most interesting point came up. In fact I am quite surprised it was even mentioned in these sanitized left-wing times.

It seems the old girl was always steely and would not back down. During the Second World War she stated that she was "not going down like the rest of the royals" in Europe. She acquired a revolver, likely an old Webley, and took up target practice. Apparently she was ready to use this firearm against any foreign intruder who might set foot in her territory. She created such a stir with her attitude during the war that Hitler called her "the most dangerous woman in Europe". A humorous anecdote was mentioned about some government official asking where the Queen was during an afternoon visit to the palace. He was informed that she was in the garden practicing revolver shooting. This poor sop was so terrified that he left by another exit so as to avoid the queen with a gun.



Her Majesty The Queen Mother.

Of course, we all know what an outdoors enthusiast the Queen was. She loved fishing, hunting, shooting, and riding into her late years. What a fine example for the people of England and the Commonwealth. This is indisputable

proof of our proud heritage of outdoor sports and firearm ownership.

Another gentleman of cast iron character, who was a close friend of the Queen's, was mentioned in the documentary as well - Winston Churchill. And of course we all know where we would be today if it were not for the British Bulldog himself. It is a shame these days that we don't have any respectable role models to look up to like these folks.

I am not surprised that the fact the Queen Mum owned a revolver, learned to shoot it, and intended to use it for self defence is not mentioned in the media. However, we all should make sure that this fact is well known and publicized. This is another strong willed woman, like Eleanor Roosevelt, who knew the true value of firearms unlike the lefties of today.

Spread the word. 🐶

Submitted by Charles Dillabough, B.Comm., CGA

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This Reflects On Many Things!

Obituary For Mr. Common Sense

Author Unknown

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense lived a long life but died in the United States from heart failure at the beginning of the new millennium. No one really knows how old he was, since his birth records long ago were lost in bureaucratic red tape. He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws, and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and that life isn't always fair. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the kids), and it's okay to come in second.

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including body piercing, multi-language ballots, and "new math." Alas his health declined when he became infected with the, "If-it-only-helps-one-person-it's-worth-it" virus.

In recent decades, his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of well intentioned, but overbearing regulations. He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools implemented endless zero-tolerance policies. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teenager suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his

condition. It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student, but could not inform the parents when a female student was pregnant or wanted an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, Churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than their victims, and Federal judges stuck their noses in everything from the Boy Scouts to professional sports.

Finally, when a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she was awarded a huge settlement, and

Common Sense threw in the towel. As his end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic, but was kept informed of developments regarding questionable regulations such as those for low flow toilets, rocking chairs, and step ladders.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers: My Rights and Ima Whiner.

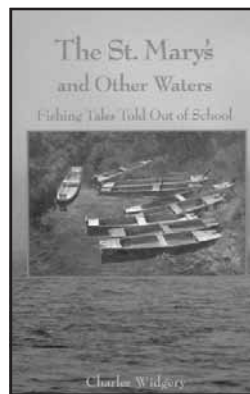
Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. ☹

"The St. Mary's And Other Waters - Fishing Tales Told Out Of School"

By Charles Widgery

Charlie Widgery can tell a good tale, and there's more to his stories than fishing. He called last winter to ask if I would write an endorsement for his book's back cover. Having seen a few "dogs" in my time, I offered to look at it, and decide. Days later a courier wound his way up our snow-clogged drive, delivering a thick packet. There were other priorities, but curiosity soon had me opening it.

One problem became evident after the first few chapters. I had a hard time putting the tome aside to deal with menial tasks like eating. Charlie has had an interesting life, but he's also developed an admirable attitude and the wisdom to complement it. His stories are not embellished. I know many of the characters in this book and his descriptions are right-



on. I got the feeling when we met that he had a lifetime of experiences that he felt were worth sharing. He was right. The volume is also notable for its straight-forward writing style. If there's an ego here, Charlie's doesn't overwhelm pages or distort realities with it. Rather, he offers distilled perceptions about fish, people, habitats and eras. They ring true.

I found "The St. Mary's and Other Waters" to be entertaining, informative, and fun to read. Bet you'll like it too!

Glenelg Publishing 2002 ISBN 0-9730725-0-4

Review written by Bob Bancroft

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A Walk In The Woods

Be Careful When Walking In And Around The Woods

By Don Cameron

"Walking wisdom is natural and lets you learn complex things easily."

W.A. Mathieu

Nearly everyone has now heard about the West Nile virus. Over the past months we have been hearing reports confirming cases via dead birds and a few sick people in neighbouring provinces. And more recently, we have learned that the virus has been detected here in Nova Scotia with more testing being done as you read this. Despite the hype regarding this recent arrival of this undesirable virus/pest, it is important to keep in mind the extremely low chance of people becoming seriously ill from being bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus.

Likewise, there are many potential hazards for people in the forest; some obvious and some not so. One of the little-discussed "hazards" of walking in and around the woods is something that I had the distinct non-pleasure of experiencing this past summer - reaction to poison ivy.

Actually, as doctors readily admit, it is very difficult and often impossible to know with total certainty what causes such a reaction, but my situation was symptomatic of a significant reaction to this

little darling of a plant. Poison ivy is a plant that, although most people have heard of it, it remains relatively foreign to them. We learn from childhood that it is a plant that we should avoid.

Unfortunately, we often take things for granted, like never having to worry about coming in contact with the ivy plant, and therefore, not keeping an eye out for it. This was the case for me. Although I have been near it many times and had contact with it previously with no reaction, I never gave it a second thought this summer.

It is now difficult to guess where the contact occurred, it could have been in many wooded places or somewhere in coastal areas where I walked through the hot weeks of the summer. One thing is for sure, I was wearing shorts at the time because when the tell-tale severe itching and rashes began it was mostly along the front of the legs where one would expect the most direct contact.

Poison ivy is a native plant to Nova Scotia that can be found throughout the province in a variety of habitats, often along the shores of lakes or near the coast.

When referring to the plant in the past, you may have heard the phrase, "Leaves three, let it be." This refers to the fact that this plant that can cause severe allergic reactions, grows in the form of three leaflets. The leaflets are usually shiny, dark green and plumply-oval in shape. To complicate its identification, the plant can grow as an erect or trailing shrub and can take the form of a vine with the assistance of aerial roots. The leaves turn a striking scarlet colour in the autumn. The tiny green flowers develop into round, waxy, white fruits.

This type of allergic reaction is not something you would wish on an enemy. If the itching and sleeplessness doesn't drive you crazy, the eventual spreading and oozing of the blister-like sores that develop (and often associated infection), can really become a bit of a bother for a number of weeks. My experience has indicated that there is only so much that medication can do. It seems that the body's immunity system has to take a certain period of time to deal with this

Continued on next page

New Regulations For Bringing Guns Into The US

Non-residents who plan to bring firearms into the US should be aware that the regulations for doing so have changed dramatically. In early February the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) announced the implementation of a rule requiring "nonimmigrant aliens

who bring firearms and ammunition into the US for hunting or sporting purposes to obtain an import permit." The new regulation is in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11. Visitors will need to fill out ATF Form 6 Part 1, which can be obtained by calling the BATF at 202-927-8320 or downloading it from the agency's Website (www.atf.treas.gov). The form then must be approved - a process that, according to the BATF, takes four to six weeks.

For more information, download the appropriate FAQs from the Website or call the agency directly.

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unwanted "alien invader".

There are medications one can take to try to alleviate itching and reduce the spread of the rash. There is even a website dedicated to providing advice to those of us unlucky enough to have been exposed, with more than 150,000 hits thus far. With respect to the question as to whether some people have a natural immunity to poison ivy, the website says that there are two type of people; those that do react to it and those that will (if exposed).

Therefore, it is worthwhile advice to become familiar with the appearance of poison ivy and try to avoid contact with it at all costs. Just because you may not have reacted to a previous exposure, doesn't mean that one won't break out like crazy on another occasion. Remember that your hands have a thick, relatively resistant layer of skin protecting you that other parts of your body, such as your rarely exposed legs, do not.

A little advice for those that fear that they are starting to react to ivy exposure. Any clothes that may have come into contact with the plant should be washed well separately to avoid additional exposure. Any clothing or footwear that cannot be

washed should be kept isolated in a well ventilated area for three weeks before using again.

As soon as possible the affected area should be washed well with soap and warm water. Don't make the mistake of soaking in a tub of water without soap, only to more fully distribute the harmful poison ivy oil throughout the body surface when getting out of the tub.

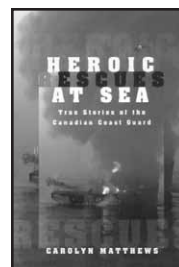
It is best not to scratch the blistering rash although it is easier said than done sometimes. To relieve itching, apply cotton cloths soaked in cool water or colloidal ointment; sponge the skin with alcohol, try soaking in a slightly warm bath (heat often worsens rashes), apply calomine lotion or a baking soda paste, and take an antihistamine. Any way you look at it, it is no fun.

If you are aware of the plant on your property it is best to avoid it. Do not try to burn it as the dangerous oil, when burned, can cause serious noxious effects as well. ♣

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

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Some Facts About Maple Syrup

By George H. Cook

Maple syrup is the oldest agricultural crop in the Maritime Provinces, having been produced by the Indians prior to the coming of the white man.

In the whole world, maple syrup is produced commercially only in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario in Canada, and in eleven of the

north eastern states of the U.S.A.

Pure maple syrup is made from the sap of the sugar maple (*Acer Saccharum*) tree. As it comes from the tree, the sap contains water, sugar, mineral salts and a substance which gives the syrup its maple flavour. The flavour varies somewhat according to the region where the trees grow, the age, health and size of the maple trees, and according to soil conditions. The quantity of sap as well as its sugar content also depends on the health and abundance of foliage during the preceding summer. Big trees with large crowns are usually the best crop trees.

Maple sap varies in sugar content from less than 1 percent, to occasionally higher than 4 percent. It takes 43 gallons of 2 percent sap to make one gallon of maple syrup. It takes 35.9 gallons of 2.4 percent sap to make one gallon of maple syrup and it takes 28.6 gallons of 3 percent sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.

Maple trees smaller than 10 inches in diameter measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground, are not usually tapped. Larger trees are tapped as follows:

Diameter of tree	Number of tap holes
10-14 inches	1
15-19 inches	2
20-24 inches	3
25 inches and over	4

In Nova Scotia, the average yield is 4 gallons of sap from each tap. Since most are one tap trees in the average sugar bush, it takes 10 trees to yield one gallon of maple syrup.

Maple syrup is made by boiling off the excess water until there is a maximum of 34 percent water. The density of the syrup at this point will be 66 degrees Brix (66% sugar). This density is reached when the temperature of the boiling syrup is 7.1 degrees F. (3.94° C.) above the boiling point of water. During the process of

evaporation much of the mineral content is precipitated. This precipitate is called sugar sand and is removed by filtration before the syrup is packaged. Maple syrup should be packaged hot, at a minimum of 180 degrees F (83° C.).

Maple syrup grading is compulsory in Canada only if it is sold outside of the province in which it is produced. The grades are established by Agriculture Canada and are based on certain standards relating to density, colour, clarity and flavour. Light and medium coloured syrups which meet all of the other criteria are called Canada No. 1. Amber coloured syrup which meets all of the other criteria and which has a somewhat stronger maple flavour is called Canada No. 2. Syrup which is darker than amber, has a stronger maple flavour as determined by colour standards set by Agriculture Canada, is called Canada No. 3. Dark syrup will have a stronger maple flavour than does amber, medium or light syrup.

Any maple syrup which is graded will have been subject to inspection by Agriculture Canada in regards to the conditions in which it is produced and packaged as well as in regard to each of the other criteria mentioned above.

Pure maple syrup is a natural product. Nothing has been added and nothing taken away.

Other products often made from maple syrup are maple butter, maple cream (soft maple sugar), hard maple sugar and maple taffy. All of these are pure maple products with no additives. Maple candies are made from maple cream which has been softened by heating and poured or packed into moulds.

Maple syrup, while seasonal as regards production, is normally packed hot in barrels. It is then re-heated, filtered and packaged throughout the year as required by the retail outlets. The best way to store maple syrup for the long term is to freeze it. Small containers, once opened should be refrigerated. ❄️

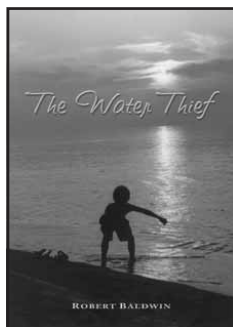
George H. Cook is owner at Maple Ridge Farm, Truro, NS.

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By Robert Baldwin

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A Walk in the Woods...

Continued from page 7

the strength, size, skills or judgement needed to operate an ATV safely. Always instruct and supervise children under 16-years-of-age.

If You Are Planning An ATV Adventure:

- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Use maps and compass or GPS if you are riding in an unfamiliar area. Make a mental note of landmarks: you may need them if you are stranded. If you are lost at night, do not move around. You will waste valuable fuel that you can use to ride to safety in the daylight.
- Carry a cellphone if you have one. Carry a first-aid pack and vehicle repair kit with you.
- Be aware of ice conditions. Watch out for thin ice, which may be camouflaged by snow
- Obey all laws relating to operation of an ATV on roads. Most places in Canada prohibit operation of ATVs on public roads, whether pavement or gravel.
- Remember it is not safe to go riding alone. Bring a friend or family member - it's more fun!

Better Practices For Fish And Fish Habitat

A good rule of thumb is, "Stay out of the water!" Freshwater fish require clean, clear, silt-free water.

When you're out driving on your ATV, sooner or later you're bound to encounter a body of water in your path, such as a stream, brook, wetland, or lake. When this happens, try to look at it not just as a simple body of water, or an obstacle, but as a location of important habitat for fish.

It is difficult to visualize the negative impact that improper ATV use has on watercourses and wetlands, because sometimes the damage you cause cannot be seen. The effects from both poorly planned ATV use by individuals, as well as large-scale rallies held in sensitive areas

are increasing the Harmful Alteration and Disruption and Destruction (HADD) of fish habitat. In fact, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has determined that causing HADD to fish habitat is a violation under the Fisheries Act and riders are liable for prosecution.

- Steer clear of wetlands and brooks. Stay out of the water - even the smallest streams, and even if they dry up in the summer.
- Let the seasons govern where you drive - stay away from water bodies in the spring and fall when heavy rains can wash silt from roads and ditches to nearby streams and lakes.
- Stick to established hard roads and trails.
- Bridges, either temporary or permanent, are necessary for all stream crossings. Even small streams that dry up in the summer must have a bridge.
- Keep ATV trails at least 30 metres away from all watercourses and wetlands. This "buffer area" needs to be maintained for all ATV activity-trails and even man-made mud holes.

Better Practices For Land And The Environment

More ATV users have discovered the joy of taking an ATV adventure into rural and remote areas. These areas are enjoyable because of their soil, water, plants, and wildlife. ATV's are a great way to get around, but a machine weighing several hundred pounds can have damaging effects on the environment - unless the rider treads lightly, and follows good practices while in the back country.

- Stay away from environmentally sensitive areas.

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- Consider corduroy roads to get across bogs. You will need landowners permission. A corduroy road has trees felled across it in a path across the bog. Better still, keep your ATV on higher ground, and out of sensitive wet areas like bogs.
- Never leave anything behind such as garbage.

Driving over an agricultural crop can have serious economic consequences for the farmer. Even driving your ATV over a planted site of trees has an economic effect.

Driving over the forest floor has certain negative effects for the forest ecosystem. Trees that have their bark scraped off by passing ATV's often die or become diseased. Driving over the forest floor can seriously impact root systems by rutting as well as the impact and weight of the machines over time.

- Respect the properties on which you have been given permission to travel.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Get landowners permission before driving through their properties. 🐾

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

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- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
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Map Used (name/number): _____

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Relationship: _____

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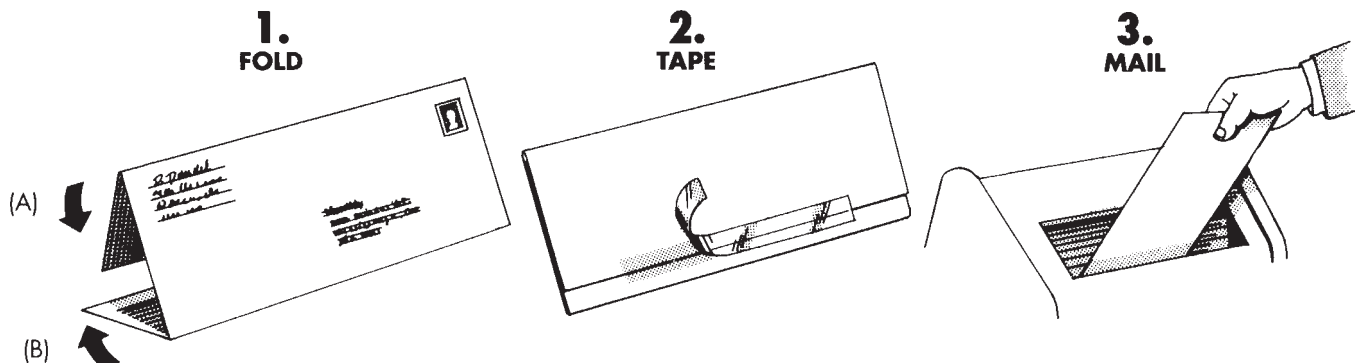


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