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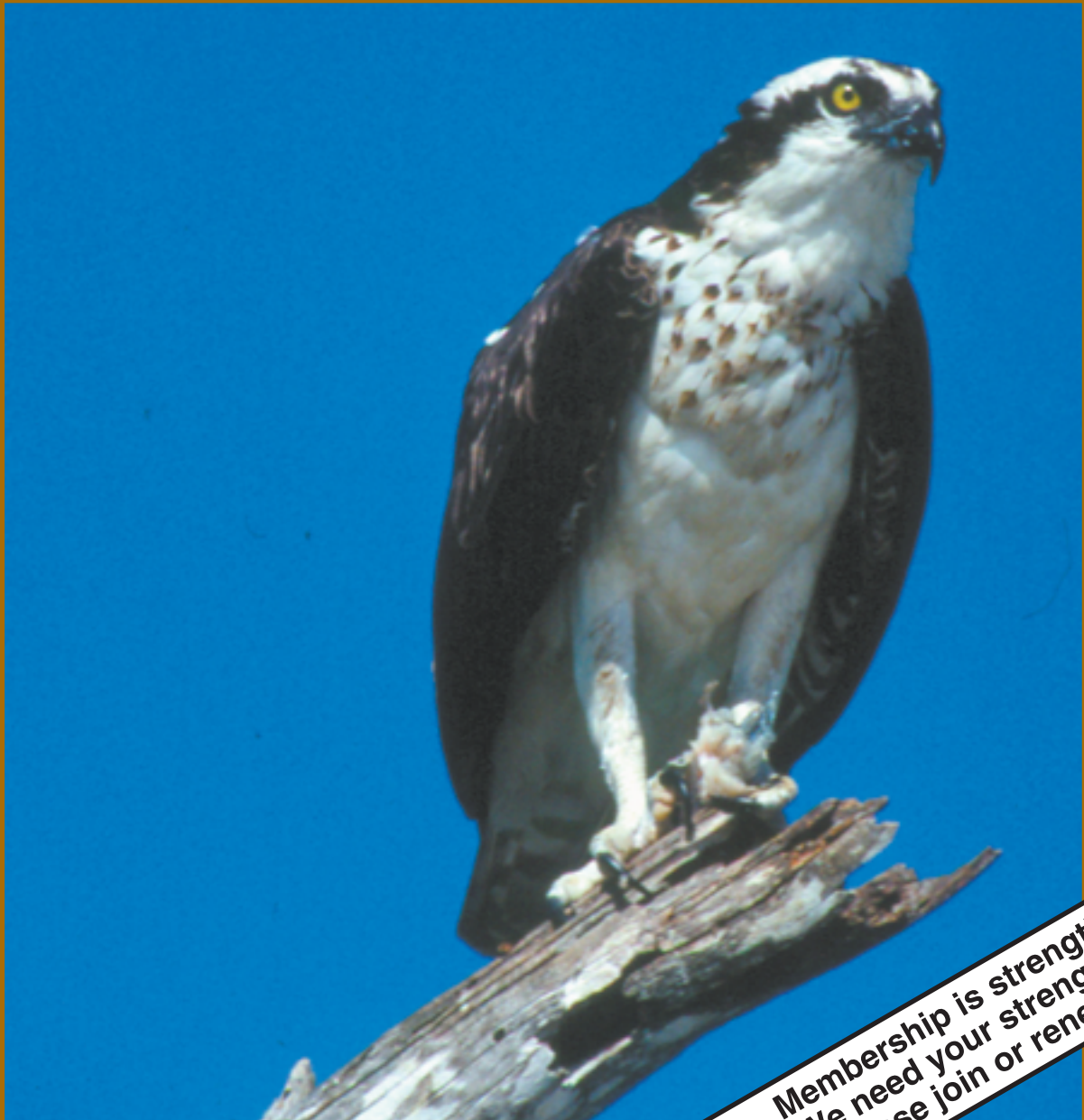
**VOLUME 11, NO. 3**  
**SUMMER 2002**

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# NOVA OUTDOORS

## SUMMER 2002

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Cover photo: Nova Scotia's provincial bird, the Osprey. Photo courtesy of B. Bancroft.

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# Nova Outdoors

Official Publication of the  
Nova Scotia Federation  
of Anglers and Hunters



Vol. 11, No. 3  
Summer, 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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## President's Message

Sunday, March 24, 2002, was a day of importance for many people for various reasons. For some it was a family day or a day of rest and relaxation, the Christian world recognized it as Palm Sunday, while others, for whatever reason, it may have been a special day. For me it was a significantly important day and date in the milestones of my life, for on that day, the electorate body of the NSFAH put its trust and direction in my hands when it elected me as President, a position I accepted with sincerity and responsibility. With your support and the strong Executive members elected, I intend to work diligently for wildlife and habitat enhancements representing the interests of hunters, fishermen and trappers. Thank you in advance for your support, as any leader or president is only as strong as those who support him or her. We have a strong organization in the NSFAH, memberships will make us stronger.

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to now past President, Bob Bancroft. His past experience of the wildlife world as a biologist, and his diplomacy in communicating with people was an asset to his presidency in the NSFAH. Having landed very quickly into the President's chair, he learned the "ropes" quickly and contributed much to the NSFAH - well done Bob!

If you read this far, by now many of you are probably wondering, just who the heck is this guy, Gary Penney. Well, for this one and only time I'll tell you, and it will be brief.

For most of my 57 years of life I lived at Upper Northfield, about 20 km north of Bridgewater in Lunenburg County. As we say here "on the South Shore, but not too close to the shore".

Living inland, I grew up in a world of hunting, fishing and trapping. It was our lifestyle and sometimes a necessary food supply, (going back a few years).

I became involved with the Lunenburg County Wildlife Association some 15 years ago and was mentored by the late Gilbert Knickle, eventually becoming president of that association for several years - attended most of the NSFAH directors and annual meetings throughout that time, so I guess you could say, I came up through the ranks, being first vice-president of NSFAH during Bob Bancroft's presidency. I am also currently one of The Nova Scotia directors to The Canadian Wildlife Federation. I continue to enjoy hunting and fishing, religiously setting aside one week for each, and look forward to it as the ultimate "stress reliever".

Speaking of fishing, I just got back from my week fishing trip, when Tony R. informed me that as president, I had two days to get this message to him for printing in this issue of Nova Outdoors. So much for "stress relief", think I'll take another week and go fishing.

Safe boating and good fishing. 🎣

*Yours in wildlife,*  
Gary Penney

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# Executive Director's Voice



As hunters and anglers we have all experienced the annoyance of discovering a newly posted property sign in an area we had traditionally visited and used for recreation. New ownership of the property, men working, or a multitude of other reasons have caused the owner to erect the sign and we respect those decisions.

But never in my outdoor life have I experienced this same bother on, what I consider to be my land. Crown land in Nova Scotia belongs to all of us and is managed for the benefit of all of us. However, I realize that it has been necessary to post signs in some crown areas for reasons of safety, wildlife and other protections or for some other good reason. We can all appreciate that. But these signs usually come with some advanced warning.

My problem this spring was with the newly posted yellow signs at the entrances to the 31 parks and protected areas in the province by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. These signs were a cultural shock to those who read them. As a person who participated in the grass roots birth of these areas I discovered that these signs did not reflect the spirit of, or in some instances the authority of the law. It is a classic example of putting the cart before the horse.

Back in 1995, government held public meetings throughout Nova Scotia to get input into a proposed parks and protected areas plan. The idea was well received, but it was the intended use of those places that got the most attention. In a province where only a fifth of the land belongs to the province, it's important to consider all uses of crown land, and the Federation left the table supporting the plan with the un-

derstanding that only heavy industry like forestry and mining would be excluded from these areas. Traditional uses of hunting, angling and trapping were to be maintained, and most importantly all 31 sites would get their very own management plans. Plans developed with the needs of the local community and the environment balanced together.

*\*\*\*In this issue I have reprinted the Federation's presentation to the public meetings that took place. It's important for our members to know what we had to say, and still believe to be our position. There was no greed or exclusive use rights asked for by anglers and hunters, just conservation. Wise use of these natural resources/recreational lands and a warning to government about how we saw some proposed types of protectionism presented by others. Soon after the Jim Campbell Barren fiasco proved us to be correct in our warning.\*\*\**

In 1998 the government presented the new legislation to create these sites before the legislature, and it was passed later that same year. In meetings held after with government, the Federation had a clear understand from former ministers of Natural Resources and Environment. The intent was the same, these areas would be protected from heavy industry not traditional angling, hunting and trapping.

Since the new signs were first noticed by anglers this spring (they went up some time over the winter or early spring) and the concern over lost access was first brought to the attention of government, they have been very positive in their response to the dilemma of our recreational users.

The acceptance of the fact that things were just not right with the message on these signs, brought immediate reaction

from official who share the responsibility for the wilderness areas.

They agreed that the language on the signs may have been a bit too strong given that management plans for these sites were not yet prepared. It was our understanding that the management plans would eventually dictate what was to be written on the signs after the public consultation had taken place.

Unfortunately, many of the people who first saw the signs did not have a clue that they had been playing in a wilderness area. An example is of one gentleman, I heard about from a conservation officer, who has been going to the same fishing area within a protected area for 36 years, and had his trip cut short when he saw the signs. Not a person to disobey the law, he left the area. How unfair was this to this man? Plan a whole year. Look forward to the trip. Then zap, a yellow road block on your path to happiness, with no warning. I hope he is well enough next year to try again.

I mentioned the cart before the horse situation. The Department of Environment in their wisdom are now working to put these two in their proper order. The horse is intended to be the education of the users of these properties, and the cart will be the inter-management plans, developed in the best interest of the needs of the area and the people who hold it dear, we hope. The real area specify management plans to follow. But consider for a moment that it will take between 18 and 24 months to develop the Tobetic Wilderness area management plan, so don't hope for one for a while.

In my eagerness to tell my members that changes were coming, I put out a notice that used the words "ignore the signs" I guess in hindsight I should not have been so aggressive. Sorry about that Mr. Minister, but I'm willing to take that criticism on this very important issue. I will choose my words more carefully next time.

Mixed messages are about the worst thing a government can do. Saying one thing and doing another confuses everyone.

This government had passed another piece of fantastic and beneficial legislation this year that was designed to protect our future in hunting and angling. The legislation was a change to the provincial Wildlife Act and gives us a very strong platform to argue that we have rights to hunt, fish and trap. We thank them again for their foresight.

However, this legislation does not mesh with the handling of the Wilderness Areas Protection Act, that in law allows for traditional angling hunting and trap-

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ping, but in theory makes it appear that the people administering the act don't want us there.

When the sign says "No unauthorized ... this, that or the other thing, and a person applies to get authorization and only then finds out that government does not intend to issue permits to provide for authorization anyway, then something has to be done.

Another glaring mistake within the Wilderness Areas Protection Act is where it states that motor boats are to be considered motor vehicles for the purposes of the act. So then you must read into it that motor boats are not allowed. Only trouble is, the province of Nova Scotia does not have any authority to dictate use of the waters within the province, let alone in the wilderness areas.

You see, responsibility for water is with the Federal government, mainly the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It falls under their navigation act and the Boating Restrictions Regulations.

I am no constitutional expert but I think the issue of the devolution of power over such things came to the Federal government via the British North America Act and that this country had two large fights over those powers. Remember Meach

Lake and the Charlottetown Accord?

So, my point you ask? If the Environment Department is willing to try and get away with exercising authority it does not have, two questions arise. What else in the act may not be under their authority? Why should they expect everybody to fall in line, when they are willing to behave this way?

Another point that must be made. These places belong to all of us, not just the healthy and strong. That is not the message I was receiving from government.

We pride ourselves in this province with treating everyone equally. Well the use of these areas does not reflect that. By an outright ban of all motorized access you cut off the disabled, the elderly, the very young and other medical challenged persons. Forcing them to enjoy the beauty of these areas without motor aids is now a safety issue.

Or, I suppose they could do what I was told to do by a wilderness areas staff member ... "go someplace else". I guess you have already figured out that I'm not going someplace else.

What I will do, at the discretion of my board of directors is to continue to present the position of the Federation to government, and press them to provide

better signage and a more acceptable inter-management plan that will reflect the needs of all citizens. There is enough ministerial power within the act to make things happen. I'm sure by the time this article reaches you it will already have been done.

The Federation has always stated that it wanted input into every one of the 31 sites because our membership is transit and they travel to all corners of the province to enjoy its resources. We stand ready to work with government to insure conservation within these areas.

Enjoy your summer and visit our 31 protected sites. They will be a pleasure to you and a benefit to the businesses and communities that surround them.

If you haven't already, please renew your membership, please do so now. New members are always welcome. We are membership run and membership funded, please become a member.

\*\*\*Please find past article, Presentation To The Committee On Proposed System Plan For Parks And Protected Areas, on page 7. ✖

*Tony Rodgers*  
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# Presentation To The Committee On Proposed System Plan For Parks And Protected Areas

*Editor's Note: This document was first presented by Tony Rodgers of The Nova Scotia Federation Of Anglers And Hunters during the Parks and Protected Areas committee holding public meetings in 1995. This article has been reprinted from Nova Outdoors, Volume 4, No. 2, Spring 1995.*

Mr. Mullally, Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the members of the Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation.

The 65 year old Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation was formed in 1930 by an Act of Legislature of Nova Scotia. The formation of the NSWF, a non-profit, voluntary organization, brought together wildlife and fish and game clubs under a single umbrella. One of our clubs, the Halifax Wildlife Association, is the oldest conservation organization in North America. The NSWF became the first province-wide voice of recreational resource users in Nova Scotia. Today, with member clubs from Yarmouth to Sydney, we continue to represent the interests of recreational land users, hunters, trappers and fishermen throughout the province.

Over 120,000 Nova Scotians participate in these activities, each of them

spending days, weeks, even months afield each year. We are the biggest recreational land user group in the Province.

Our members maintain a deep commitment to the wilderness areas of Nova Scotia. Since our forefathers gave up their dependence on wildlife and other natural resources for subsistence, we have continued these traditional activities. We have hunted, trapped and fished. We have travelled the wild lands of this province; we have travelled on foot, by canoe, by motor boat and by other motorized vehicles. We have acquired leases and built cabins. We have utilized advances in technology to make these areas more accessible to our families, the young, the old and the physically challenged. Through all of this, we have continued to recognize the sensitivity of these special places. These places and the activities we have carried on are a part of our heritage, a part of what makes us Nova Scotians, why our forefathers came and why we stay. This is why for over 130 years our membership have been committed to the conservation of these special places and the wildlife of our province.

Early documentation of Federation business cites increasing concern for wildlife habitat loss and over exploitation of natural resources.

The Federation's 1970 manifesto listed as its main objective to:

"Make public the immediate and long-term position and aims of the NSWF in its stand against the accelerating erosion of the outdoor environment of the people of Nova Scotia."

The NSWF has recognized the

unique land use issues of our Province, our high ratio of privately owned lands, our shrinking wildlands and our increasing demand for recreational use of those lands. We have promoted responsible and sustainable land use among our members and the general public.

It is the feeling of the members of the NSWF that this proposed plan will create a single land use policy for a major portion of the crown lands of the province. It is the feeling of our members that this precedent will increase demand for access to other lands and may result in greater restrictions for access to privately owned lands.

Conservationists are the caretakers of our wild lands and wildlife. We have been the stewards of these special places. Today preservationists claim to have a better way to protect the lands that we have sustained in a pristine state over the years. They are lobbying to end our recreational use of these lands.

Proof is available that preservation does not work. It does not protect wildlife or wildlife habitats. In Canada the "protected" Georgian forests of Ontario are being devoured by over population of herbivores. Some of our National parks are being overrun by tourists. Other countries are witnessing similar problems with their preservation attempts. Even the isolated Galapagos Islands are being overrun by tourists. Poaching for Asian dinner tables and aphrodisiacs is threatening the food sources of many endangered species. Economic pressures are forcing the government to withdraw regulations previously enacted to preserve these habitats. Accidental introduction of new species of wildlife are displacing native species.

The NSWF supports the concept of protected spaces in Nova Scotia. We have no objections to any of the thirty-one suggested sites named in "A Proposed System Plan for Parks and Protected Areas

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in Nova Scotia". We do, however, object to the proposed systems plan, how it has been produced and many of the restrictions suggested in it. We cannot support any of the thirty-one proposed sites until each of their management plans are made public.

The system plan was drafted secretly with input from only a few individuals with their personal agendas. The plan does not reflect the wishes of Nova Scotians, our small landmass, our unique land ownership patterns, and our traditional and historic use of the land.

It is the view of the NSWF that the proposed system plan is not in fact a system plan. The "plan" is simply a description of wilderness areas across the province. There are no provisions for controlling forest fires, accidental introduction of unwanted species or overpopulation of destructive species. The management strategy is one of "preservation" by exclusion of human activity.

The "system plan" makes reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' (IUCN) classifications. I would like at this time to thank Dale Smith for his efforts to locate and make available a copy of the IUCN's Guidelines for Protected Areas Management Categories. The Federation has reviewed these guidelines and finds them to be an excellent reference for establishing our province's network of protected spaces.

The first paragraph of IUCN's Guidelines for Protected Areas Management Categories states, "participants emphasized that protected areas are about meeting people's needs: that protected areas should not be islands in a sea of development, but must be part of every country's strategy for sustainable management and the wise use of its natural resources."

It is the feeling of the NSWF that this proposed plan:

- (a) Will establish islands of wilderness in a sea of over development.
- (b) Will fail to meet the needs of Nova Scotians today and in the future.

(c) Ignores Nova Scotia's commitment to sustainable development of our natural resources.

IUCN lists six classifications for protected areas.

They are:

- 1) Strict protection (i.e. strict natural reserves/wilderness areas)
- 2) Eco system conservation and recreation (i.e. national park)
- 3) Conservation of natural features (i.e. national monument)
- 4) Conservation through active management (i.e. habitat/species management area)
- 5) Landscape/seascape conservation and recreation (i.e. protected Landscape/Seascape)
- 6) Sustainable use of natural eco systems (i.e. managed resource protected area)

The IUCN states, "All categories are important" and that "The number assigned to a category does not reflect its importance; all categories are needed for conservation and sustainable development. Therefore, IUCN encourages countries to develop a system of protected areas that meet its own natural and cultural heritage objectives and then apply any or all the appropriate categories."

It is the position of the NSWF that no categories should be assigned protected spaces until a full public review and management plan has been completed. It is also the position of the NSWF that Category 1 would be inappropriate for most protected areas in Nova Scotia and the Categories 4, 5 and 6 may be more appropriate in most cases.

The fifth paragraph of IUCN's Guidelines states "Protected areas should be established to meet objectives consistent with national, local or private goals and needs (or a mixture of these) and only then be labelled with an IUCN category according to the management objectives developed herein. These categories have been developed to facilitate communication and information, not to drive the system." In the Proposed Systems Plan

on page 15 under management standards it states, "It is therefore the intention of the Province of Nova Scotia to protect and manage candidate natural areas, at a standard comparable to that adopted by the international union for conservation of nature and natural resources (IUCN) for scientific reserves and areas." This is the strictest of IUCN's six category system.

It is the feeling of the NSWF that this statement reflects a preservationist attitude in the plan, that this statement precludes any meaningful consultation to develop a management plan and that management standards as listed on Pg. 15 should be deleted from the plan.


I would now like to quote Fred Payne from his article "The protection racket": "While wildlifers blinked, the buzz word of the 70s and 80s - "conservation", was replaced by a new buzz word for the 90s - "preservation".

Our grandparents knew what it was to preserve. They preserved the dead things from the garden for later consumption. They also knew that even well-preserved produce would spoil over time. Placing our special places in a glass jar does not mean they are protected. As conservationists we insist that our natural resources be used wisely and sustainably for future generations.

The NSWF will await the management planning process to comment on individual sites. It is our hope that the System Plan will be amended to reflect our concerns and that the next stage, the management plans, will be an open and fair public process.


Thank you. ✖

*Prepared by Bob Cross and the Parks Committee of the NSFAH (NSWF).*

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# Wilderness Access

As your past president, I no longer speak publicly on behalf of the NS Federation of Anglers and Hunters. This column represents my own views, some already expressed in an issue of Eastern Woods and Waters.

Many of us took part in the public consultations associated with the Wilderness Areas Protection Act that was passed in 1998, and the 31 areas that were designated under it. The Act, as passed, permits hunting, trapping and fishing, but provides for vehicle access only in certain circumstances. In all the years I have been a biologist, the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment and Labour has never had the staff or resources to perform its many mandates. I sympathize with Minister David Morse and the task he faces with specific management plans for these 31 areas. Whenever this, or another government musters the resources to produce these promised individual management plans, it seems clear to me that each plan must be consistent with that Act.

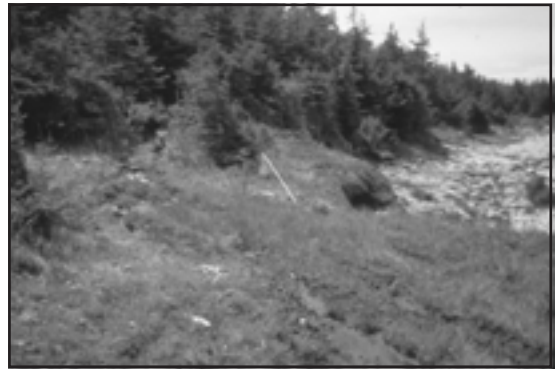
I travelled into many of these 31 areas when they were candidates for protection, assisting an artist who wanted to paint their unique landscapes. They were memorable years - in two ways. First, we got along rather well. And I learned I could still carry a canoe for five hours in one day. Second, I witnessed the horrendous damage that ATV drivers were inflicting upon the likes of Jim Campbell's Barren. Many other sites - particularly beaches and bogs - were simply torn to pieces by folks with no regard for the environment. Beer cans, gut piles, and muck churned up by thoughtless slobs on machines were commonplace. I saw sites where ATVs were being used to hunt before any hunting season opened. There is no question in my mind that these areas need protection most - not just from industry - but from a significant number of people who drive ATVs and snowmobiles.



Last spring I paddled down a river in the Yukon for five days without witnessing the damage so commonplace in Nova Scotia. The only "garbage" we encountered on the river was a life jacket and paddle. Part of my childhood was spent in the Yukon, so I grew up enjoying relatively pristine wilderness. The company was exciting - moose, wolves, foxes, grizzlies, and grouse to name a few. Access was by foot and water - I remember seeing a long line of prospectors slowly moving upriver along one trail, balancing enormous packs with straining tumplines. Getting into the wilderness meant ongoing education about the wild and a gradual development of self-confidence and survival skills essential to such travel. Looking back, I realize those experiences created a wilderness "addiction" that would last a lifetime. Becoming a fisheries and wildlife biologist was another means to enjoying the outdoors.

Chainsaws and snowmobiles were major technical innovations of the 1950s that boosted access to wilderness. Global demand for wood products keeps rising with exploding human populations. More people have been born in the last 50 years than the total for the previous four million years. Taxpayer-subsidized forestry roads in the 70s brought new access to woodlots. The wood extraction left roads behind. Consequently, new hunting, angling and trapping pressures were applied to that same land. Put another way, the more roads went in; the more wood, fish, and wildlife came out.

My friend John, had a fly-in camp on a remote lake in eastern Nova Scotia back in the 70s. There were petroglyphs on one shoreline rock, documenting a history of human visitation. I flew a crew in to survey the lake and its tributaries to determine habitat and fish populations before forestry roads approached. Speckled trout populations were the stuff of dreams. Several years later, construction of a new road rumbled by a mile off to the west. After that John heard a noise one day while in his camp. A fellow appeared on the western shore with a chain saw, then a canoe. That fall John collected 14 cases of empty beer bottles off one point on the lake. The fishing continued until there was nothing to catch.



ATV's have drained a bog - with their ruts - over a bank into Chebucto Bay. (Bob Bancroft photo)

During the eighties four-wheel-drive technology became more refined as a generation that grew up in station wagons shunned them. In want of another image, they ignored the petroleum scare of the previous decade and began to buy gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and gussied-up pickup trucks. The average showroom vehicle today burns 13 percent more gasoline than it did ten years ago. Off-road capability is still the image. Canadians succumbed to the ads, and fancied the self-image. Thirty years ago, North Americans represented about 6 percent of the world's human population, but were using about 60 percent of the entire world's annual output of resources to sustain a lifestyle we think is normal. We've continued that level of consumption to the present day. But the demand for petroleum is projected to outstrip supply within this decade.

The latest, best-selling motorized vehicles for off-road wilderness adventure are personal watercraft (jet skis) and all terrain vehicles (ATVs). Cranking around like mad hornets on a water-borne mission to nowhere, the two-cycle exhaust from two hours of jet skiing is equal to the total smog-forming emissions from a 1998 passenger car operated for about 208,000 kilometres (130,000 miles). Not surprisingly, the industry is moving to less polluting four cycle engines. But these machines also interrupt loon nesting, and any pretense other folks might have about quiet relaxation at the lake. One Florida Gulf Island reacted to their din by simply banning them from its shores.

As a fisheries biologist, I have seen the difference that ATV access has brought to remote lakes. Typically there was an old forestry road in disrepair within several kilometres of the lake. From that point (in the 80s) a walking

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trail had been cleared by the energetic few who would carry a canoe or simply wanted to hike. After an arduous trek, the balance of the day was spent alone with a refreshing wind and the quiet splendour of water, sky, shoreline and occasional wildlife visitors. The speckled trout had only been lightly fished, so many of them were willing to bite almost any tackle. Returning to one such remote highland lake in the 90s to assess the trout population, I found the path had become a well-beaten ATV track. This is typical. Not surprisingly, the trout population had plummeted.

While many ATV owners keep pushing into these last remote areas, hacking through woods with little knowledge or concern for private or public ownership, I shudder to think where this process, and the future for wildlife and habitat, is headed. Many of these people have no wilderness skills; just a machine. Most of these folks could use the exercise of walking or paddling. There are many ecological problems associated with ATV abuse of bogs, waterways, sand dunes and shorelines. Last year I spent several weeks visiting beautiful river valleys in a city where ATVs were finally banned.

In metropolitan Toronto the floodplains associated with a number of rivers are wooded oasis that thread through a sea of pavement and concrete to Lake Ontario. These green fingers through metro are out of bounds to development since a flood killed dozens of folks many years ago. They are also free of motorized vehicles. ATVs are non-existent. Cyclists and walkers can move quietly along the many trails that follow the rivers. Trees and shrubs deaden the thunderous, ant-like traffic droning along just over the hillsides. Riparian zones are being replanted and stabilized to protect riverbanks. Rabbits, foxes, deer and coyotes have come back to the city with the resurgence of natural vegetation and vehicle restrictions.

Why do ATV owners ignore the paper "protection" afforded public lands like the Tobetic in western Nova Scotia, and proceed to transform wilderness into more stomping grounds? Not many years ago, one could travel there for a week and not hear motorized vehicles. The reality today is that every time I head into a wilderness area with a canoe and a pack, I can only travel in so far before I find myself coming back out on another side.

Travel distances in wilderness are shrinking rapidly. Many Nova Scotians want wilderness without motorized vehicles.

Do ATV owners have a right to make trails on other folks private property? No. On Crown land? No. How does one stop them? Snowmobiles can and do interrupt the solitude of sensitive wintering areas for wildlife. ATVs can be a year-round wildlife menace in uneducated hands, and they are capable of going just about everywhere. Wilderness access has become one of these drivers pursuits. Too many thoughtless men on their technotoys consider passage a right. The organized ATV folks are doing their best to educate others, but it's not turning the tide of environmental damage. Each and every one of us is responsible for our own actions with respect to the environment and the wild. It adds up. Driving by ignorant or unconcerned ATV owners is destroying the last vestiges of wildlife habitat in Atlantic Canada. Our fish and wildlife populations will shrink even further as this access continues unabated. 

*Bob Bancroft is a Biologist and Outdoor Writer.*

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# Mi'kmaq Chiefs, Nova Scotia And Canada Set To Begin Formal Tripartite Negotiation Process

The thirteen Mi'kmaq Chiefs of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Michael G. Baker, Q.C. on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Honourable Robert D. Nault on behalf of the Government of Canada signed an Umbrella Agreement which reaffirms their longstanding relationship and commitment to work together in good faith to resolve issues of mutual concern.

Specifically, the parties will continue with the existing Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum as well as engage in a broad negotiations process in Nova Scotia to consider issues of asserted Aboriginal rights (including title) and treaty rights. The parties have also agreed to establish a consultation process.

In January 2001, the Parties released a joint statement regarding their willingness to work together to resolve

outstanding Aboriginal issues including the long-term implementation of the Marshall decision. The Umbrella Agreement reaffirms this commitment and defines the process for moving forward.

This historic signing ceremony took place in the Red Chamber of Province house on Friday June 7, 2002. The Parties will now begin Framework Agreement negotiations where they will identify the issues to be negotiated, goals, procedures and a timetable for negotiations.

"The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia are pleased to be entering a process that will ultimately recognize and implement the rights of our people," said Chief Lawrence Paul. "In the final analysis," added Chief Terrance Paul, "recognition and implementation of the rights of the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia will not only bring dignity and prosperity to our communities, but will show all Nova Scotians that partnership is the only way to create a better society."

"This is a significant step in our effort to resolve treaty and related issues through negotiations," said Minister Baker. "It's the first time that such a comprehensive process has been undertaken in Nova Scotia and I look forward to working on behalf of Nova Scotians with the Government of Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on these matters."

Minister Nault congratulated all parties on their commitment to the process.

"I am happy with the progress we have achieved since announcing our intention to work together to resolve mutual issues," said Minister Nault. "We have made a strong commitment to improve the quality of life in Aboriginal communities and we have reached the stage which allows us to sit at the same table to devise the building blocks of a prosperous future together. ♿"

*For further information, please contact: John Soosaar, Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs at (902) 424-7409.*

## ARE YOU PLANNING TO HUNT THIS FALL?



All first time hunters living in Nova Scotia are required to take the **Canadian Firearms Safety Course** through the Nova Scotia Community College AND the **Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course** through the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. If you are under the age of 18, you also require a **Minors Firearms License** in order to hunt with a firearm.

Applications for both the **Canadian Firearms Safety Course** and the **Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course** can be picked up at any Department of Natural Resources office, all Nova Scotia Community Colleges or download at:

[www.gov.ns.ca/natr/hunt/hunting.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/hunt/hunting.htm)

For more information on a **Minors Firearms License**, please call the Department of Justice at: 1-800-731-4000 (Ext. 6505).

Mature students (18 years of age or older) also have the option of participating in the Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course by either a home study program or an online program. For more information on these options visit our website at:

[www.atlantichuntered.ca/](http://www.atlantichuntered.ca/)

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# 2000 Nova Scotia Sportfishing Survey

By Inland Fisheries Staff

If you have ever wondered how many anglers there are in Nova Scotia, or how much they spend every year on their sport, then the results of the 2000 Nova Scotia sportfishing survey will interest you.

This survey, which is carried out every five years, is designed to provide information on the numbers and places of origin of anglers, their expenditures and investments to fish in the province, the numbers and kinds of fish harvested, the amount of fishing effort expended and the quality of sportfishing in Nova Scotia.



Gilbert van Ryckevorsel - Website: [www.salmonphotos.com](http://www.salmonphotos.com)

That sounds like a lot of information, and it is. The information used in the survey is collected from 1,322 questionnaires which were returned from a mailout of 2,414 questionnaires to people who had purchased a Nova Scotia fishing licence in 2000. The survey shows that in 2000 there were 64,621 licenced anglers. Of these 91 percent fished, and of those that fished 96 percent were Nova Scotia residents and 4 percent were non-residents. A look at non-resident anglers shows that 54 percent were Canadian, 38 percent American, and 8 percent came from Europe.


There were 16,848 young people under the age of 16 living in licensed anglers households who fished, bringing the number of anglers to 75,372. (This number doesn't include young people who do not

live in a household with a licensed angler, it also does not include saltwater anglers who do not require a fishing licence.) The age of the angling population is of interest to sportfish managers as they look at future anglers for the fishery, and in the 2000 survey the average age of resident anglers was 46, for non-residents 49. The sport fishery continues to be made up of a large number of male anglers. In the latest survey approximately 88 percent of resident anglers were male, compared to 93 percent for non-residents. The proportion of active female anglers has remained relatively stable since 1980, ranging from a high of 12.3 percent in 1985, to a low of 8.5 percent in 1990.

Angling continues to be a major recreational activity in Nova Scotia. Licensed resident, and non-resident anglers spent 1.2 million days fishing in 2000, with 78 percent of those days in freshwater and 22 percent in salt water. This effort was 7 percent higher in 2000 than it was in the 1995 survey. Resident anglers fished an average of 18.5 days in 2000 while non-resident anglers spent an average of 5.4 days. Angling effort by residents continued to be highest in Halifax, Cape Breton and Lunenburg counties, while non-resident anglers expended 26 percent of their effort in Inverness County.

Estimating harvest by anglers is one of the more valued results of the survey, and in 2000 anglers caught an estimated 4.7 million fish of which they retained 2.1 million (45 percent). This compares to anglers keeping 54 percent of their catch in 1995, 63.2 percent in 1990, and 82.2 percent in 1985. An average of 72 fish were caught per angler in 2000 of which 32 were retained. Of freshwater species, speckled (brook) trout were the preferred species by both resident, and non-resident anglers, this was followed by rainbow trout by residents and Atlantic salmon by non-residents. Smallmouth bass were the third most popular fish for residents and fifth for non-residents.

When asked to rate their fishing experience, 60 percent of residents rated their fishing experience as good, very good or excellent (66 percent for non-residents) this compares to 54 percent of residents in 1995 (74 percent for non-residents). In the 2000 survey 43 percent of resident anglers felt the fishing had declined from 1995 to 2000 and attributed the decline to acid rain, pollution, over fishing and habitat degradation. When asked to rate a number of options for improving the sport fishery the anglers favoured more stocking, increased enforcement and habitat improvement.

The value of the sport fishery continues to increase. In 2000 anglers spent \$21.3 million on supplies and services directly connected with their sport; 12 percent higher than in 1995. Anglers invested \$71.7 million on major durables and property of which 49 percent (\$35.2 million) were attributed to sport fishing activities. Overall Nova Scotia anglers spent a total of \$56.5 million on their sport in 2000. The average expenditure per angler on services was \$364.67, for durables \$602.80. From these, and other types of expenditures, it is estimated that the economic impact of the 2000 sport fishery was \$85 million in Nova Scotia. 

Copies of the survey are available from the Inland Fisheries Division, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, P.O. Box 700, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0, or may be viewed on the Department website at [www.gov.ns.ca/nsafl/sportfishing](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsafl/sportfishing)



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# A Walk In The Woods

## Wetlands Are The Best Nature Has To Offer

At first glance, most wetlands look like wasted land: boggy swamps with slow moving or brackish water, a whole lot of grass and mosquitoes. Who really cares if they get filled in to put up a mall or housing development?



Don Cameron

But look again. Those buzzing insects are food for a multitude of reptiles and amphibians. Moose, deer, and bats all forage in wetlands, while ducks nest and raise their young amongst the protective marsh grasses. And a wide variety of plants, such as the pitcher plant, sundew, bullrushes and cattails, are found exclusively in wetlands. Wetland plants also play an important role in the health of the environment, by absorbing and breaking down contaminants, and by regulating water supply during floods and droughts. Finally, wetlands have great recreational opportunities for canoeists, birdwatchers and many others. Suddenly, that useless land is starting to look more and more valuable!

Technically, a wetland is defined as any area of land that is underwater for all or part of the year and, supports biological activity adapted to a wet environment.

Nova Scotia has about 600,000 acres (242 817 ha) of freshwater and saltwater wetlands, that cover more than 15 percent of the province. But that huge acreage doesn't adequately convey the amazing degree of variation between the different types of wetlands and their value to the environment and society.

Randy Milton is Manager of Wetlands and Coastal Habitat with DNR's Wildlife Division in Kentville. He says that for a long time, wetlands were unjustly considered places to be drained and filled in before being turned into something more productive. "There really is a need for continuing education on the value of wetlands, and their importance in terms of ensuring biodiversity and ecosystem function."

Milton says that over 50 percent of Nova Scotia's saltwater wetlands, as well as many freshwater wetlands, have already been lost. The good news is that some people have started to take positive steps toward saving what's left. One initiative is the Wetlands Private Stewardship Program, which is aiming to secure 82,000 acres (33,184.9 ha) of freshwater and saltwater habitat in this province over 15 years. Agreements with landowners can range from a simple verbal commitment to conserve the wetland, to a more formal management plan in partnership with others such as DNR or Ducks Unlimited Canada.



Salt Marsh (Photo: DNR)

Individuals and communities are increasingly recognizing the potential of wetlands to improve their environment. About four years ago, the community of River Hebert started an interesting experiment to test if wetlands could help treat the wastewater from their sewage treatment facility. The problem was that the wastewater still contained nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as some harmful bacteria. They decided to partner with the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture in building a dual-purpose wetland to clean the wastewater and to improve wildlife habitat. Filtering the effluent through the wetland means that it is treated through natural chemical and bacterial processes and thus no longer poses any risk when it enters the river. At the same time, the rich nutrients in the wastewater have acted like fertilizer for the marsh's vegetation. The vigorous growth of cattails, grasses, and other wetland plants has increased the food supply for the various

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snails and insects that feed on them. Their increased numbers have meant more food for fish and waterfowl. The area has now become a tourist attraction and is used by the local school to raise environmental awareness among its students.

Success stories such as these are a sign of the growing realization that wetlands are an important part of our environment. They provide valuable wildlife habitat, help clean and regulate water levels and, offer some great, often overlooked, recreational opportunities. And on a hot summer night in a marsh, you can hear for yourself the vitality of life in wetlands: insects peep and buzz excitedly, birds call back and forth, frogs belch their "ribbets" into the air, and occasionally a fish leaps from the water to catch a bug. For nature, wetlands are truly paradise.

Freshwater wetlands include:

Bogs, which are areas of peat formed from sphagnum moss that receive all their nutrients from rainfall and the air.

Fens are also peatlands, but are formed from sedges and grasses that receive their nutrients from streams flowing through them.

Marshes are broken into two groups: deep marsh, where the water level is up to three feet deep, and shallow marsh, which can be almost dry in summer.

Seasonally flooded flats are areas where rivers overflow their banks at a certain time of year, such as the floodplains along the Mersey and Salmon Rivers. Meadows are often found in the upper reaches of a watershed, and drain into the seasonally flooded flats.

Vernal pools are areas where pools of water develop in spring, such as in the woods at Blomidon. The water may be quite high at times, then completely disappear at other times. Interestingly, some plants are specially adapted to vernal pools, and are able to survive during these periodic dry periods until the water develops again.

Lakeshore wetlands are protected backwaters along lake shorelines.

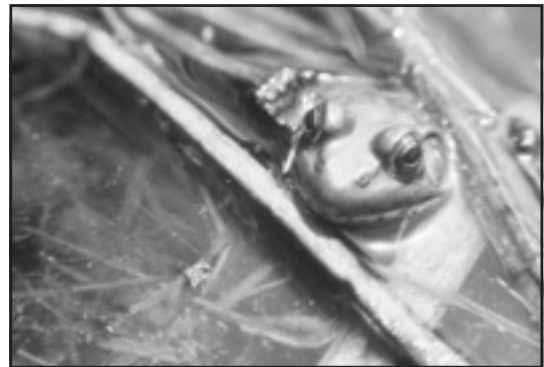
Saltwater or coastal wetlands have a degree of variation similar to their freshwater cousins: Intertidal flats are areas of exposed mud like at the top of the Bay of Fundy, and contain an important source of food for wildlife.

Saltmarshes are broken into two groups: low saltmarsh, which is flooded on all tides, and high saltmarsh, which is only flooded during large tides.

Saline ponds are made up of water trapped behind a barrier beach, but with large waves that still sometimes break over thus mixing salt water with fresh water.

Subtidal flats are coastal areas that are always covered by water, where eelgrass and other vegetation often grows plentifully.

So as you can see from above, there is much more to wetlands than one might think. Their value is immeasurable and must be taken into account when planning future uses of lands.



Green frog (Photo: DNR)

### Tree Trivia:


Many of us are in the process of getting fuelwood for the fast approaching winter season. One of the most common questions I hear relates to fuelwood. When considering what type of fuelwood is best for your heating use, keep one thing in mind. The denser the wood fibre in any given tree species, the more heat potential and value it contains. In other words, if you have two pieces of wood of the same size and moisture content (air dried for one year), the heavier piece will create more heat value.

It is essential that you use well seasoned (dry) fuelwood. If you haven't

yet acquired the wood that you intend to burn this winter, you must make sure that you get wood that was cut at least one year ago that has been air dried in the open. If you burn wood containing lots of moisture (green wood), it is very inefficient, as much of the heat is used to evaporate the water in the wood. This tends to build up creosote and generally is less satisfactory for your use. As well, it is heavier work to carry green wood into your home than seasoned wood.

The best (most dense, heavy) fuelwood species that are in good supply throughout most of Nova Scotia are sugar maple and yellow birch. Red maple and white birch are not as good as their "big brothers" and poplar and softwood species have even less heat value. ❧

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



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# Grit's Gun Registry Joke Beginning To Hurt

By Les MacPherson, Saskatoon  
StarPhoenix

It was funny when the gun-control geniuses in Ottawa registered a hair dryer as a firearm. It was funny when they registered an electric soldering gun as a firearm. It was not so funny when they registered three pump-action shotguns and a 9-mm pistol to Canada's most infamous gangster.

That would be Maurice "Mom" Boucher, the Montreal biker boss who

was put away last week for ordering the murders of two prison guards. Boucher was leader of the Montreal-based Hells Angels chapter blamed for Quebec's bloody biker wars. His organization was the primary target of Ottawa's new anti-gang legislation.

Boucher has all the credentials you'd expect of an infamous gangster. His criminal record includes a three-year term in prison for armed robbery and two years for sexual assault. In 1995, he was convicted on a (firearms) charge after police found

an unregistered handgun tucked into his belt. He served six months and was still on parole for that offence when a police wiretap recorded him advising another biker to beat a mutual enemy with a baseball bat. The murder charges for which he was eventually convicted had been pending since 1998. On top of all this, he was purportedly running the country's most dangerous criminal organization.



Even so, it came out during Boucher's latest trial that when Quebec police raided his home in the spring of 2000, they found the aforementioned shotguns and pistol, all duly registered by federal (firearms) authorities. That they hadn't registered Boucher's blow dryer and soldering gun is to their slight credit.

With Boucher's record and his national notoriety, you'd think he'd be the last guy to qualify for a (firearms) licence. There is no more recognizable criminal in the country. How could he pass the requisite security check? What is the point of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a gun registry that accredits a gangster facing murder charges?

No explanation has been forthcoming. Justice Minister Martin Cauchon, minister irresponsible for the gun registry, refuses to answer opposition questions about Boucher's licence. To do so, the minister explained, would violate Boucher's privacy rights.

It is a sad day for Canada when the federal justice minister hides behind the privacy rights of a murdering gangster. Sad, but typical.

*Continued on next page*

2002

## Woodlot Owner of the Year Award

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*Photographer: P. Romkey*

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**TODAY'S RESOURCES, TOMORROW'S LEGACY**

# Your Rights As An Angler — An Overview

The Angling Act permits a resident of the Province (not anyone else) to go on foot (not by any other means) along the banks of a river, stream or lake (and these must be non-tidal and therefore, within the jurisdiction of the Province), that cross or are on uncultivated lands (lands that are in their natural wild state) or Crown lands for the purpose of lawfully (e.g. with a Fishing Licence) fishing with a rod and line in such rivers, streams or lakes.



The above summary of the Angling Act was prepared for this column by Geoffrey P. Muttart of the Kentville law firm of Muttart, Tufts, DeWolfe and Coyle. I spoke with Mr. Muttart recently about the fact that many anglers are unaware of their rights and he kindly agreed to take a look at the Angling Act and prepare an overview. Excerpts from the overview follow.

Historically, Mr. Muttart noted,

English Common Law once gave landowners exclusive fishing rights over inland waters. This was changed in 1912 to permit any residents the right to fish as described in the above summary. However, Mr. Muttart said, “this change in the law only affected lands in those municipalities that enacted by-laws providing for the issuances of licenses to landowners who wished to preserve their historic rights and exclude the public rights.”

“In 1916, the legislation was amended to confer the public right to fish on residents .... whether or not a municipality had enacted a by-law for issuing licenses. However, the owner of ‘uncultivated land’ (excepting timberland) was still entitled to apply to the municipality for a license to preserve the private right and to exclude the public.”

“This license was available as of right to the landowner until 1998. In 1998 the Municipal Government Act amended the then Angling Act to delete the provisions authorizing a municipality to issue licenses.”

Mr. Muttart concluded the overview with the statement of angling rights that are in the summary. However, the

conclusion expanded further on what anglers can or can't do when fishing and since it is important, I quote it in its entirety.

“An angler does not have the right to follow the banks of rivers, streams or lakes across uncultivated lands merely to reach other rivers, streams or lakes in which he/she wishes to fish. The angler must fish in the rivers, streams or lakes that are being followed. An angler does not have the right to cross private land other than in compliance with the legislation. Therefore, an angler cannot access a favorite fishing hole by crossing private property, without the permission of the owner, unless he/she is following the bank of a river, stream or lake, the fishing hole is a portion of such river, stream or lake, and the entire property being crossed is in its natural wild state.”

Anglers should note that the above is provided for information purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice. If you are in a situation where your legal rights as an angler are being challenged, your best step is to consult a lawyer. ✕✕

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

## Grit's Gun Registry...

*Continued from page 15*

By any objective measure, the Liberal gun registry is a disaster. It can't identify a notorious gangster. It can't distinguish a blow dryer from a Beretta. Still, the governing Liberals insist that the registry is working as promised to make Canadians safer.

The evidence says otherwise. It cries out otherwise. We were told, for example, that the registry would cost about \$85 million, total. The actual cost is \$690 million, so far. Costs are continuing to add up at the rate of about \$100 million a year. For that kind of money, you'd think someone would at least read the applications.

Meanwhile, the registry has simply lost track of tens of thousands of applications from harmless duck hunters. They are now vulnerable to criminal charges for failing to comply. You have to look back to the old Soviet Union to find bureaucratic bungling on this scale.

We were told that police personnel would not be diverted to the gun registry. But 161 RCMP personnel have since

been so diverted. What are the odds that not a one among them has ever heard of Mom Boucher?

We were told that gun registration would not deter legitimate gun owners. But the regulatory cost of owning a hunting rifle is now up to \$279. And sales of migratory game bird hunting licences are down by a third after nine years of Liberal gun control. It's as if they set out to eradicate hunting. That might explain why duck hunters have to register while sex criminals do not.

We were told that gun registry would be secure. And so it is, if you're Mom Boucher. Otherwise, security has been problematic. RCMP computers containing gun registration information have been breached more than 200 times. The information could help criminals identify homes where they could steal guns.

The error-riddled registry is of less use to police. They don't trust it. They don't even use it. That's why Quebec provincial police didn't know about Boucher's legally registered guns until they actually found them. In this case, as in most others, the registry might as well not exist.

The same cannot be said of the hundreds of millions of wasted dollars. That money could have been spent on cancer research or twinning dangerous highways. Instead, we get cynical Liberal lies and criminals with licensed guns. ✕✕

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les.macpherson@TheSP.com*

### The winners of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, 2001 Funding Lottery drawn on March 23, 2002 in Truro are:

**1st - JOHN STUBBERT,**  
*14 foot boat with Motor and Trailer*

**2nd - A.J. MACISAAC,**  
*\$500.00*

**3rd - DANNY DUNBAR,**  
*\$300.00*

**4th - LAWRENCE GOODLAND,**  
*unframed wildlife print*

**5th - DOUG O'CONNELL,**  
*unframed wildlife print*

**6th - JOHN RYAN,**  
*unframed wildlife print*



# What Is GPS?

The acronym GPS means Global Positioning System – A network of satellites which constantly circle the earth. These satellites send a constant stream of coded information that makes it possible to precisely identify any location on or above the earth by measuring time and distance from the satellites. The satellites transmit radio signals which enable a GPS receiver to calculate its position in Latitude and Longitude (or Universal Transverse Mercator).



Throughout time man has invented a variety of ways to figure out their position on earth and how to navigate from one place to another. At first people navigated by means of landmarks – mountains, trees, or by leaving stone markers. These methods would only be useful for local destinations. With the invention of the compass, navigators could travel more abroad, and by keeping track of their speed, could track their progress. Mariners were able to calculate their position by using *Celestial navigation* – a method using stars. Celestial navigation was the primary method of navigation for hundreds of years. It was a time consuming and complicated task of measuring the angles between stars – a process of triangulation. The tool used for this was the sextant, but it only measured Latitude. Only when a precise timepiece was invented that could be used at sea could Longitude be calculated adequately. This type of navigation was disadvantaged because it could only be used at night and in clear weather.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century *ground-based radio navigation systems* were invented. Some of these are still in use today. One of the better-known systems is LORAN. GPS is also a radio navigation system, but the first used systems were all ground-based. LORAN users (the receivers) calculate how far away they are from a transmitting tower whose location is precisely known. When several transmitting towers are used, the location of the receiver can be pinpointed. Each tower had a transmitting range of about 500 miles and the accuracy was good to about 250 yards. LORAN was not a global system and could not be used very far out at sea. The

nature of the transmitted signal was that it traveled over the surface of the earth and therefore only a two-dimensional position could be calculated. Altitude could not be determined, so this system could not be applied to aviation.

In 1957 with the launch of the Russian Sputnik, the Americans were shocked into action in a desperate bid to catch up. In the process they conceived a satellite navigation system that solved the problem of how to locate yourself anywhere on the globe in three dimensions. With satellites orbiting the earth, researchers realized that the radio transmission of a satellite in a well-defined orbit could be used to determine the position of a receiving station back on the ground. The Doppler effect, which measures the frequency shift of the satellite transmission as it passes overhead, was the early method of position calculation. This method required several passes of the same satellite and could take several hours to take an accurate fix. Even still, Doppler was the first method used for a satellite positioning system, which was known as Transit. Transit was put into orbit by the US Military in the 1960s and was used by US Navy missile submarines to achieve an accuracy of about 25 yards.

Even before Transit was operational, researchers were investigating a better system. They were working on a system consisting of an entire formation of navigation satellites whose orbits were precisely known, and whose distance could be precisely determined. If a receiver could obtain signals from a minimum of 3 of these satellites at the same time, then the receiver could precisely determine its own position by triangulation. To accomplish this meant that the receiver had to know the precise direction and distance of the satellites. To fulfill this requirement the satellites would emit signals at precisely timed intervals, and by measuring the delay of arrival of these signals, a receiver could determine the distance of each satellite.

The next problem was to devise a transmitted signal that would achieve the accuracy required. A “pseudo-random” signal was developed that could be transmitted by all the satellites on the same frequency, so that the GPS receiver need only receive on one frequency. The requirement to receive on only one frequency greatly reduced the cost of GPS receivers. (Satellites actually transmit on

two different frequencies, L1 and L2. One for civil use and the other strictly for military users.)

The 1990-1991 crisis in the Persian Gulf was the first major test of GPS in a combat situation, and proved beyond a doubt the importance and the usefulness of this type of navigation system. Some say that GPS revolutionized combat operations on the ground and in the air during Operation Desert Storm, and was – as one Allied Commander noted – one of two particular pieces of equipment that were major factors in winning the battle (the other was night vision devices). Among the many uses of GPS during Desert Storm, navigation proved to be a crucial technique for desert warfare. GPS satellites enabled coalition forces to navigate, maneuver, and fire with unprecedented accuracy in the vast desert terrain despite difficult conditions – frequent sandstorms, few paved roads, no vegetable cover, and few natural landmarks. On average, each US Army maneuver company (i.e. tank, mechanized infantry, or armored cavalry) had at least one GPS receiver, the demand for receivers was so great that more than 10,000 civilian units were hastily ordered during the crisis. In addition to navigation, other operations were greatly enhanced by GPS including precision bombing, artillery fire support, the precise positioning of maneuvering troop formations and combat search-and-rescue missions.

Basically GPS works by measuring the time it takes a radio signal from a satellite to reach a receiver on the ground. Each satellite continuously broadcasts a signal that gives its position and the time. A GPS receiver compares its own time with the satellite's time and uses the difference between the two to calculate the distance. Taking measurements from four satellites allows the receiver to pinpoint Latitude, Longitude and Altitude, and to correct for errors in its clock, which is not nearly so precise (or costly) as the atomic clocks in the satellites. Using four satellite signals is better than three, and even more is better yet. Modern GPS have the capability to receive up to 12 satellites at the same time. The satellites do not track the receiver, the user or anything else. The satellites merely transmit their positions and an extremely accurate time signal to the GPS receiver. The GPS device can then calculate its own position.

*Continued on next page*

# Do You Have Your Boating Course?

**B**oating season in the Maritimes usually begins when the ice leaves the lakes and rivers in early April. Gradually we see an increase in the number of recreational boaters, particularly small open powerboats, canoes and kayaks. Although water in the Maritimes remain relatively cool even in summer months, boating in the early part of the season and the latter part of fall presents an additional challenge for boaters. Cold water temperatures play havoc with boaters who find themselves in the water unexpectedly. It is a good idea to always wear your personal flotation device (PFD) when boating, especially if you are in a canoe or kayak.

Operating a recreational boat requires the proper knowledge, skill and attitude to ensure safety for everyone on the water. Knowing the rules of the road, being prepared for emergencies, and having the right safety equipment on board all work together to give you peace of mind that you and your boating companions will have an enjoyable day on the water. It is this concept that makes up the core of the operator competency program. Through education and awareness boaters will be better prepared to meet the many challenges that come their way when on the water.

Introduced in 1999, the regulation is aimed at users of motorized recreational boats and will eventually require all operators to carry on board proof of operator competency. Operators born after April 1, 1983 must carry proof on board now; by September 15 of this year, operators of power boats under 4 metres (13.2') and personal watercraft will be required to carry proof of operator competency. This phase in period will end as of September 15, 2009, when all operators of powerboats (regardless of boat size or operator birth date) will be required to carry on board proof of operator competency.

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) strongly recommends individuals obtain their proof of operator competency by taking a Safe Boating Course and obtaining their Pleasure Craft Operator Card. However, another option available to experienced

boaters is to challenge the accredited test.

In the Maritimes there are approximately 39,000 small open powerboats under 4 metres with an estimated 117,000 potential operators. The number of Pleasure Craft Operator Cards issued to date is 19,000 or 17 percent of the boaters. However, the CCG expects the number of individuals holding proof of competency is higher than this figure. Some boaters have taken a Safe Boating Course prior to April 1, 1999, and hold a certificate that attests they successfully completed the course. This certificate of successful completion is also considered proof of competency.

Alcohol and boating don't mix. Alcohol combined with the effects of the natural elements when on the water can be a lethal combination. Forty percent

of incidents involving recreational boats involve alcohol.



Courtesy N.S. Tourism

Be Safe - Be Sure - Take a Course! ❧❧

For further information on Safe Boating contact the Canadian Coast Guard toll free at 1-888-670-0771 or visit our website at [www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca).

## What is GPS?...

Continued from page 17

*Selective Availability* was a US Department of Defense policy that was part of the reason for inaccuracy in GPS. The satellites were instructed to "dither" both their times and their locations so that their transmissions were less accurate. This was done mainly to prevent a foreign military power from using the GPS as a free, super-accurate, pre-installed targeting computer. On May 1 of 2000, the President of the United States announced - "Today, I am pleased to announce that the US will stop the intentional degradation of the Global Positioning System ...". So Selective Availability for civilian users was turned off. Civilian users were now able to pinpoint locations up to ten times more accurately. The same GPS receiver that provided accuracy within 100 meters of a user's position was suddenly accurate to within 10 meters. This change immediately made a GPS more accurate and reliable, and thus much more valuable to the GPS user.

The GPS system was of course designed, built and paid for by the Department of Defense at an estimated 14 billion dollars. Its ongoing upkeep is still in the millions every year. But for civilian users, with SA Off, it is a highly accurate instrument that will give you your location, quite reliably, within 10 meters, anywhere on earth. Altitude is not nearly so accurate unfortunately. For fishermen and hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts we now have a device that shows where we are, where we are going and where we have been very accurately.

Next time - different kinds of GPS, and how Sportsmen can use them. ❧❧

Ken Kane is a 12 year Hunter Education Instructor who lives near Hubbards. [kjkane@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:kjkane@ns.sympatico.ca)

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# Aging Hunting Population

**B**rilliant moonlight illuminated Maplewood as Art tossed another stick on the fire. Smoke rose skyward in the frigid autumn air and the roof glistened with silver frost. Somewhere on the western ridge, a coyote howled plaintively with a song as old as time. It was the third week of November and if finer days exist, I have not been privy to them. Brian and Fred snored, while Steve yawned and asked me the time. It was 3 a.m., the peak of the rut, and I was glad to be sharing an age-old hunting tradition spanning three million years of human history. But I was 44 years old, the youngest man in that camp. Like it or not, I thought, the hunting population is aging. And that is a very serious problem for those of us who do not want the campfires of Maplewood to dim, guns to fall silent, and a tradition to be lost.

But what are the reasons behind this decline, and what can we do about it? Demographics: The aging population can be illustrated by the fact that in the US there were 3.1 million people over 65 in 1900; by 2030, that figure will soar to 70.3 people. An increase of almost 23 times. Obviously the population has grown substantially in the last century, but the percentage of older people continues to increase. People 65+ will rise from 12.4 percent of the population in 2000, to 20 percent in 2030. According to the US Dept. of Health and Services, the growth of older people "slowed somewhat during the 1990s because of a relatively small number of babies born during the Great Depression of the 1930s. But the older population will burgeon between the years 2010 and 2030 when the 'baby boom' generation reaches age 65."

Distractions: One major reason for a lack of recruitment of younger people

into the hunting heritage is the amount of distractions available today.

"When I grew up," said a friend in his late forties, "we had two TV channels. Now we have 50 or 100 channels, video games, computers, the Internet, email, chat, stereos, mountain bike clubs, etc. etc. It's tough competition out there."

Another factor is the progressive movement of people from the country into the city. With the migration out of a rural life, many young people are losing their connection to rural heritage, chief among them hunting and fishing.

In 1985, there were 114,738 deer licenses sold in Nova Scotia. The next year, there were another 110,983. In fact, between 1987 and 1991, only once did license sales fall under 80,000 units. But between 1993-2001, deer licenses slumped to around 50,000. An alarming trend, but not hopeless.

Solutions: It is a fact carved indelibly in stone that with numbers comes political power. The more hunters campaigning for their rights, the more likely they will be heard. Conversely, with declining numbers, hunters and gun owners will lose political power. Recruiting new individuals into the sport is fundamental, both for future and current hunters/gun owners.

Several strategies are being employed. Bill Jordan closes the Realtree Outdoors hunting show each week with the most important message: "Take a child hunting or fishing so they too can enjoy the great outdoors." Wiser words were never spoken.

Bringing young people into hunting is key. Women are an untapped market as well. Though Tanya up at Maplewood can outlast any of us men while hunting rabbits, many more

women could be brought into the sport. It behoves any sportsman to encourage not only his children, but his wife or female friends to take up the pursuit. Not only will that introduce them to the joy of hunting, it will increase the hunting community in numbers and political power.




Jim Power



Take a child hunting or fishing. Sound advice for those who want the outdoors life to continue.

Conclusion: We woke up that morning in Maplewood not to the sound of the alarm or someone's rallying to the hunt, but because a car pulled into the yard with four sons and one daughter, all in their early to mid-twenties and wearing hunter orange. I saw not only four hunters, I saw the promise of tomorrow.

Take a child hunting or fishing. 

*Jim Power has written for: North American Whitetail, Safari Magazine, Bowhunter, Fur-Fish-Game, Eastern Woods and Waters, Woods and Waters USA, Canada's Outdoor Sportsman, The Maine Sportsman, Ontario OUT OF DOORS, Whitetail Strategies. He also has a feature on Nova Scotian deer hunting coming up in Buckmasters.*

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# Random Casts

By Don MacLean

## Leech !

**L**eech! The one word guaranteed to clear out the local swimming hole and strike terror into the hearts of many people, young and old. One of our most feared freshwater inhabitants, the leech is widely distributed throughout Nova Scotia in a variety of habitats, but slow moving water such as lakes and ponds are where they are most commonly found. While I have to admit I have not always been a big fan of leeches, my opinion of them changed when I found out how much trout and bass love to eat them.



Leeches belong to the family of segmented worms and are related to our common earth worms. In contrast to public

opinion most leeches are not actually blood suckers of warm bodied animals. Most are predacious on cold-blooded fish and snails or eat dead animals and plants. Although they lack eyes leeches have very well developed senses of smell and touch. The leeches which are blood suckers, often referred to as medicinal leeches, secrete an anti-coagulant which prevents blood from clotting while attached to their meal. My father can remember, as a young boy, selling exceptionally large leeches to local drug stores where they were sold to people who wanted to "leech" themselves, and I recently read where leeches are still used today to ensure blood flow is returned to reattached fingers.

With tough, smooth skin over a multi-segmented muscular body, leeches can alter their body shape from short and thick to long and skinny. When swimming they move with a smooth up and down motion that is irresistible to trout. Leeches swim at the rate of one foot every three seconds and it is while swimming that most are eaten by fish. Ranging in length from 1 to 6 inches, leeches in the 2-3 inch size range are most appealing to trout. Most of the leeches found in our lakes are me-

dium to dark in colour in shades of brown, olive, black and grey. While live leeches make great bait, artificials are easy to tie and, in my opinion, just as effective. There are numerous leech patterns, including the time tested wolly worm, but one of the easiest to tie is the rabbit fur leech.

Rabbit Fur Leech

Hook: Long Shank #4-#10

Weight: Bead or cone head

Body: Strip of black rabbit tanned hide with fur on about three inches long. Tie strip on leaving about one inch as a tail. Wrap the remainder on the fly up to the head and tie off.

This fly moves with a very lifelike action in the water. Fish by retrieving line in short strips. The lead weight at the head allows the fly to move up and down in a pattern similar to the natural movement of the leech. So, if you get a chance, tie up some leeches and give them a try. You won't be disappointed. 🐞

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

## 25 Years

### Noel Shore Game Protection Association

By Betty Densmore

**I**n October of 1977, Paul Densmore decided that the residents of Noel Shore had done enough complaining among themselves about the large amount of deer jacking in the area, so he called the then Department of Lands and Forests and had two officers, Ivan Myers and Paul Spike, attend a meeting at his home. From there the association was formed and meetings were held in the community hall.

The objective of the organization is to promote, stimulate and advance

conservation of wildlife and habitat.

The members gave freely of their time to patrol the roads looking for jackers. As a result jacking in this area has dropped to near zero.

In 1978 the association joined the Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation and was presented with the "Curtis Cup" the first year. Since then we have been very active with N.S.W.F. now known as the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and have received many trophies.

In recent years we have stocked ponds, put in fish eggs, raised and released pheasants, adopted a brook, sent boys and girls to conservation camp and started recycling in the area.

Since 1980 a bursary has been presented to a student at Hants North Rural

High School, who is attending university and taking courses in a field of work relating to our aims.

A note to all hunters and anglers: stop complaining amongst yourselves and join a local wildlife club so your voice can be heard where it counts. If there isn't any club near you, start one or join the N.S.F.A.H. 🐞

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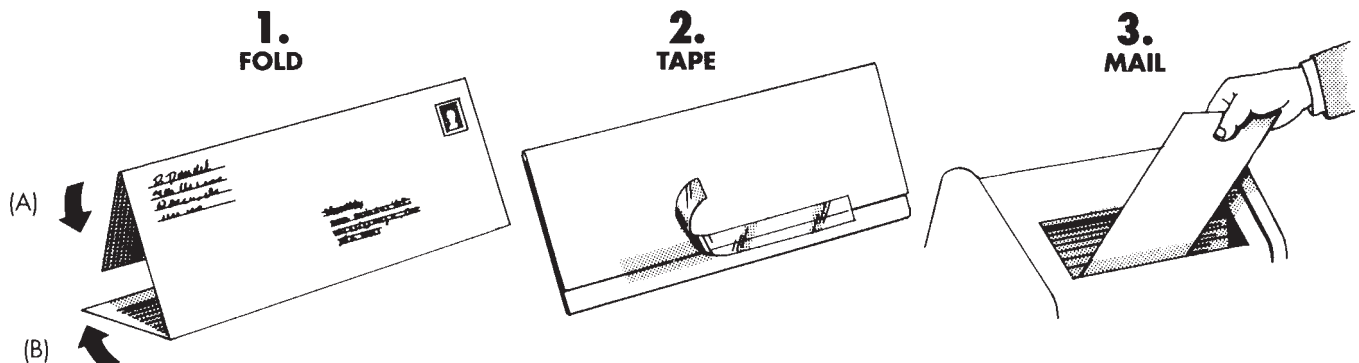


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### Toys For Big Boys

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