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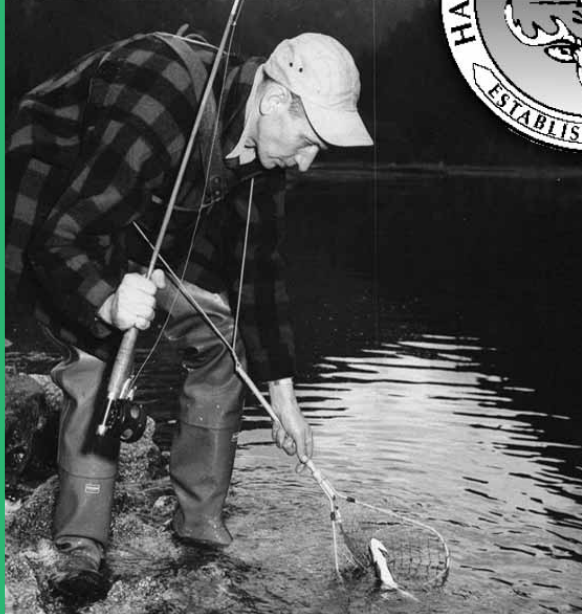
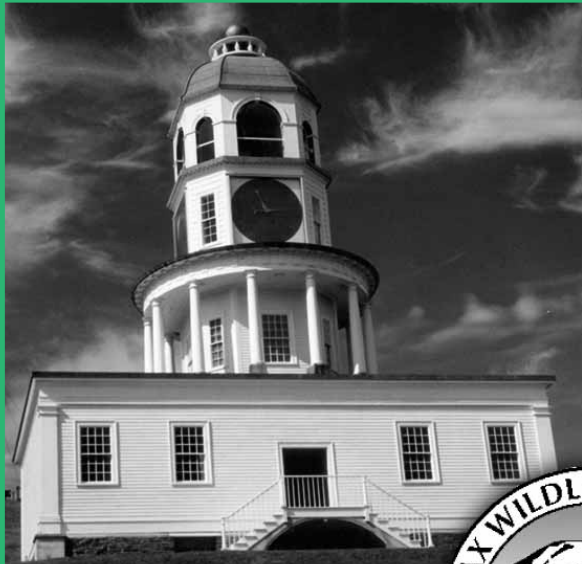
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See Page 21

VOLUME 12, NO. 2
SPRING 2003

Halifax Wildlife Association
150th Anniversary

Random Casts

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



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RULES

- Entrants must be 16 years or older to enter.
- Open to Nova Scotia residents only.
- Entry forms are to be completely filled out in ink or typed.
- The licensee is subject to the laws respecting hunting and fishing in the same manner as with any hunting or fishing license.
- This license is not transferrable, and may be cancelled, suspended, or forfeited in accordance with the law.
- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2003. Entries postmarked after November 30 will be included in the next years draw.
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NOVA OUTDOORS

SPRING 2003

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Cover photo of Halifax town clock courtesy of W.J. Woods, Lightsmith Photography.

To place your ad in the next issue (Summer, 2003) 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. 12, No. 2
Spring, 2003
**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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Special thanks to our many contributors who have assisted in this project - your continued support will be appreciated.

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Published quarterly by

NATIONWIDE
Promotions Limited

Design and production

Angela Urquhart
Maria Erman

Advertising

David Boutilier
Greg Cooke
Ross McQuarrie

Letters and/or contributions may be sent to the editor c/o:

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P.O. Box 44028, 1658 Bedford Hwy.,
Bedford, NS B4A 3X5
Ph: (902) 468-6112
E-mail: novaout@accesscable.net

Printed by

Transcontinental
PRINTING
WEB ATLANTIC LIMITED

Mailed under Canada Post
Publication Agreement No. 40050030

President's Message

Top of my list for beginning this new year of 2003, is congratulations to the Halifax Wildlife Association on the occasion of their 150th anniversary. This is a fabulous milestone



Gary Penney

in their many, many years of work and accomplishments in wildlife. One can only imagine what conditions were like back in the year 1853, and that survival often was dependent on trapping, hunting and fishing. More so, even in those times, these true wildlife harvesters realized the need to organize and work together as an organization in the forming of Halifax Wildlife, to protect and perpetuate wildlife and habitat for future generations. This became the model of future clubs and organizations. Throughout the years, trappers, hunters, and anglers, have put forward recommendations and regulations, often self imposed on their own sport, to protect stocks and species survival for future needs. To all members and executives, past and present at the Halifax Wildlife Association, congratulations on this achievement from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters and from all wildlife.

NSFAH activity has been very active as year 2002 ended and 2003 gets on the way. Phone calls and meetings sometimes appear to be the order of the day, however sooner or later time allows it all to happen. A big event the NSFAH are hosting this year, is the Canadian Wildlife Federation's annual conference and meeting is being held in Halifax this June.

One of the highlight events I attended so far this year, was the Becoming an Outdoors Woman event at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton. On February 15, the wife and I drove up to the Gaelic College and were joined there with NSFAH second vice Jamie DellaValle as guests of the BOW programme, for the afternoon and evening. At the college we were greeted by Susan Rhosellie and Darlene Caldwell, both instructors and organizers on the BOW programme. Darlene is also first vice of the NSFAH. We were given a tour of the facilities and the BOW programme. Talk about women getting out of the kitchen and into the outdoors, it was about -15°C in the

sunshine and wind blowing, these gals in the BOW events were outside doing snow shoeing, tracking, species identification, survival skills and other activities.

In spite of some exhaustion due to abnormally cold weather and the physical activity, these ladies were enthusiastic and preparing for the next day's challenges. There was even talk of disappointment that the ice fishing event had to be cancelled due to the -20°C temperatures and 40 km winds. Now that would wimp out the best of us, me for sure.

After visiting the BOW event, it was obvious to me that this programme provides an excellent introduction for women to explore outdoor activities in wildlife and habitat. We need to infuse new ideas with expanded horizons in today's environment for tomorrow's needs of wildlife and habitat. When opportunities knock, open the door!

Following the BOW visit, we moved on to Sydney, where Sunday morning I attended a meeting with the forming committee of the NSFAH Foundation. This is a newly sanctioned committee of the NSFAH and is tasked strictly with fundraising for the NSFAH. Over the year there should be developing news from this committee as it gets established.

The deep snow with several crust layers has made deer travel from shelter to food and water very strenuous, not to mention predator opportunity. Many deer will succumb to the harsh elements and the not so easily accessible food supply. Many deer are accepting easy and ample supply of fall feed, be it from accessible browse, to handouts, or large scale baiting, it is gone and so is their stored up fat reserves. Also deer have been conditioned to our several milder winters of years past. Expect to see a further downward trend in the deer herd.

There is a lot of activity and excitement happening in wildlife and habitat, much of which is fostered by local wildlife clubs, organizations, and the NSFAH. Don't just be a user of the resources, be a giver and supporter. Become an active participant by joining a wildlife club or organization, and be a part of what's happening, and have a great experience doing it.

The future for wildlife is You! 🐾

*Yours in wildlife,
Gary Penney NSFAH President*

Executive Director's Voice



The movie "Love Story" must have started some kind of social trend when one of the actors is quoted as saying, "love is never having to say you're sorry."

The Federal Liberals modified that trend a bit to read, being a liberal is never having to say your wrong.

Can anybody within any political party explain to me and the rest of the firearms community, exactly what the government has produced as evidence of success of the current firearms program that would justify them continuing their efforts and spending more of Canadian taxpayers' money, and to do so especially after the Auditor General Sheila Fraser's damning report on the misspending in that department.

Nothing, that's exactly why the statement of "never being wrong fits."

However, it is my feeling that common sense has struck some members of the liberal party when they realized the waste and poor use of taxpayers' dollars and the push on with it regardless attitude of the firearms registry. Unfortunately it is the minds of the liberal back benches that have been awakened and their position on the continuation of the program is being filtered at the cabinet level. These back benches, some of whom live in poor ridings will pay the price for these mistakes.

The degree of arrogance of this government, lowers once again the trust and respect taxpayers have for politicians.

Their support seems to rest on the voters of inter city Canada who have not grown up in a culture of firearm respect, and that group allows the Liberal government to continue to take liberties with the freedoms of Canadians.

PAL's for the purchase of firearms and ammunition are now in place and personal ID cards are what they are now looking for. I dread to think what could be next.

I have avoided zeroing in on any particular politician because they all share the blame. If I allow someone to break the law in my presence than I am just as much to blame. So all Liberals elected or not, can share in the responsibility of this legislation.

For those of you who have not registered your firearms, please pay close attention to what is being asked of you now. The free registration on-line is back in effect. Those who have sent in their "notice of intent to register" and use a paper method to registration will pay \$18.00 for

all of their guns.

Speaking of guns, I hope you all read the story about the family who objected to their child learning to spell the word gun in a school spelling class. They protested to the school and had the word removed from the program.

That is the level of paranoia that we have reached in this country thanks to the Coalition for Gun Control and the federal Liberals.

I guess the next step is to make all of the people whose last name is "Gun or Gunn" change them. There are 18 such persons in the Halifax telephone directory along with one Gunnery, 2 Gunning and one, Guns.

As you will notice as you read through this edition of Nova Outdoors, the bulk of the magazine is dedicated to the Halifax Wildlife Association.

The HWA is a member organization of the Federation of Anglers and Hunters and through it members remains a solid voice for wildlife concerns in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

On behalf of the individual members of the Federation I would like to congratulate the HWA on reaching their 150th milestone, and salute you as being the oldest conservation organization in North America. Good luck in the next 150 years. ✻

Tony Rodgers
tony.rodgers@3web.net

Now This Is Something To Sit Down And Think About

This is from the Ottawa Citizen:

Can you imagine working for a company that has little more than 300 employees and has the following statistics:

- 30 have been accused of spousal abuse
- 9 have been arrested for fraud
- 14 have been accused of writing bad checks
- 95 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses
- 4 have done time for assault
- 55 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit

- 12 have been arrested on drug related charges
- 4 have been arrested for shoplifting
- 16 are currently defendants in lawsuits
- 62 have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year

Can you guess which organization this is?

It is the 301 MPs in the Canadian Parliament. The same group that cranks out hundreds of new laws designed to keep the rest of us in line.

Which one did you vote for?

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New Encampment, Ancient Heritage

Submitted by Parks Canada

In 2002, for the first time, visitors to Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada were offered a glimpse of an ancient past. An encampment was created in a wooded area near Kejimikujik Lake. That campsite shows how researchers think a small Mi'kmaq settlement looked 500 years ago.

"Visitors were fascinated," said Jean Augustine-McIsaac, supervisor for Aboriginal History and Cultural Interpretation at Kejimikujik. "Children were especially interested to have an opportunity to go into an honest-to-goodness wigwam."

The most striking object in the encampment is a life-size wigwam covered with birch bark. It contains a fire pit, bearskin and deerskins. Outside, close to the wigwam, there is a hide stretcher, sweat lodge, basketry, bow and arrow, fishing spears, cooking kettle, and a drying rack.

Each reproduction illustrates a dif-

ferent aspect of the survival techniques of the early Mi'kmaq. The technology makes it clear how they constructed shelters; made tools and weapons; and cooked and preserved food. The re-creation also offers a glimpse of the spiritual aspect of the Mi'kmaq, during a time in which they lived in harmony with the environment.

Throughout the summer of 2002, visitors sat spellbound for 75-minute tours. The interpreters dressed in traditional clothing, complete with leather regalia bearing designs like those used by the early Mi'kmaq.

"Local people who considered themselves knowledgeable of our culture, told me that they learned more in the hour or so they spent with me than they had from any textbook," says Sarah Swinamer, an interpreter.

As is typical in a major National Park like Kejimikujik, visitors come from across North America and around the world. They range from small children to seniors. All who came to the campsite were fascinated with their introduction to the heritage of the Mi'kmaq.

Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site is a unique experience. It is a place that resonates with Mi'kmaq stories and spirit. Like most of the Maritimes, the Kejimikujik area was familiar to Aboriginal people for centuries before the arrival of Europeans. Artifacts have been found that date back nearly 5,000 years. Actual use of the land and waters likely goes back 10,000 years, when glaciers melted enough to allow people into the Maritimes.

Over the many centuries, Kejimikujik witnessed camps, fish weirs, hunting territories, portages, trails and burial grounds. The most noticeable trace left behind is the engravings incised on slate outcrops along the lakeshores. Known as petroglyphs, the etchings are an invaluable treasure of art and wisdom.

The new encampment at Kejimikujik is a place to experience the rich culture and history of the Mi'kmaq. It will be offered again for the 2003 summer season beginning near the end of June until Labour Day weekend. ❧



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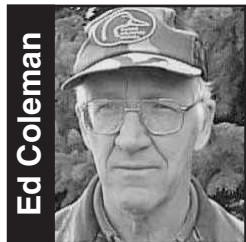
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Canada

Pheasants Introduced For Hunting

By Ed Coleman

I have people say once in a while, "I'm feeding pheasants in my backyard but don't come and shoot them."



Ed Coleman

Usually this is a friendly, tongue-in-cheek conversational gambit. People who say this are feeding pheasants in their backyards where hunting isn't legal, and generally it's in winter when the season is closed; so even if I wanted to, I couldn't sit on their back steps and harvest their feeder birds.

I shouldn't treat this lightly. Some people are serious about protecting the pheasants they feed all winter. I know of a situation where a couple spend about \$100 a month feeding birds, including pheasants. They live near the dykes and often see hunters harvesting pheasants; most likely these are some of the pheasants they fed the previous winter and understandably, this is upsetting.

I've been refused permission to hunt by farmers because their family feeds pheasants. Literally they've adopted the birds and the family likes to see them around. Letting someone hunt these birds would be like letting someone hunt a family pet.

All this is good. If it wasn't for people feeding pheasants through the winter months, I'm sure this great bird would soon go the way of Hungarian partridge. Hunters should be grateful for the people who feed and protect pheasants. Those countless feeding stations are sanctuaries and seed areas from which pheasants spread out to coverts where they may be hunted.

But as beneficial as it is, people sometimes become too protective of the pheasants they look after, even to the point of being militant and harassing legitimate hunters.

Keep in mind that pheasants were introduced to be a hunting resource. Pro-hunting groups such as the Kings County Wildlife Association were instrumental in releasing pheasants in this area in the 1950s. For nearly a century before the 1950s introduction, hunters had been releasing pheasants in various parts of the province. The Department of Lands and Forests sanctioned and supported the 1950s introduction, providing eggs and young birds to wildlife groups interested in establishing a hunting stock of pheasants.

Since its introduction, the pheasant has become the most popular upland game bird in the province. Thousands of pheasants are bagged annually; the pheasant is an important hunting resource, and recognizing this, the govern-



Male ring necked pheasant. Photo courtesy of Department of Natural Resources.

ment established a division in the Department of Natural Resources to manage it along with other upland game.

Some of the people who help pheasants through the winter look upon hunting these birds as a near immoral act. As I said, this is perfectly understandable. However, pheasant hunting isn't a crime. Pheasants were introduced for recreational purposes and hunting them is a legitimate pursuit. ❧

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

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2003 ~ The 150th Anniversary Of Our Founding

By Bud Inglis, Director, Halifax Wildlife Association

On Wednesday, March 30, 1853, a meeting was held at the Masonic Hall to form a "Provincial Association" for the purpose of protecting the Inland Fisheries and Game of the Province of Nova Scotia" as reported in the April 11, 1853 issue of *The Nova Scotian*. The following executive was voted in:

- President Capt. Chearnley
- Vice President W i l l i a m Sutherland
- Secretary Charles W. Dickson
- Corresponding Secretary William M. Harrington
- Treasurer James Stanford
- The annual membership subscription was 5 shillings.

In its April 18, 1853 issue, *The Nova Scotian*, in an article headed 'The Provincial Association', reported on the Association's meeting of April 11, 1853 - the first since its founding 12 days earlier:

"President Chearnley opened the meeting by stating that the Lieutenant Governor, Sir J.G. LeMarchant, had kindly consented to becoming the Patron of the Association".

On February 22, 1854, the first annual meeting was held of 'The Provincial Association' in the Mason's Hall as reported in a March issue of a *Sun* newspaper article headed "Society For the Protection of the Inland Fisheries and Game". We now begin to see that the Association is also being referred to by the stated purpose for which it was founded. Through the following seven to eight years, there appears to have been definite confusion arising from that interchanging of titles which seems to have been responsible for a name change - one that can be corroborated only by a single article appearing in a newspaper on June 2, 1862 (there not being any other document extant such as copies of minutes of meetings or annual reports). There's no telling whether the newspaper got the name correct or not.

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The Sun newspaper of June 2, 1862, headed a news item 'Nova Scotia Society for the Preservation of Game and River Fisheries', reporting on a meeting held by the group at the Masonic Hall 'on the afternoon of Friday last!' (May 30, 1862). The lengthy article quoted President Capt. William Chearnley on a very disturbing matter that had been uncovered by a committee of inquiry headed by Capt. Hardy, R.A., Vice President. From evidence provided by an Indian guide and from an on-site inspection by the committee, it was reported that an English aristocrat, Sir Francis Sykes, along with other hunting friends, had caused 'wanton destruction' of many moose, leaving body parts and much meat laying about in putrefying heaps in several different locations. No information was given as to whether or not Sir Francis was ever held accountable.

Now there appears in the record well-documented evidence of a *first formal name change*. In the possession of Walter Piers, a long-standing member of our Association and whose family name appears on the membership rolls from 1853-1906, are two volumes of minutes of meetings, carefully handwritten with pen and ink. We will deal first with the earliest volume covering minutes from 1865 to February 23, 1870. This volume cover is inscribed: "River Fisheries and Game Protection Society Minute Book".

- The first page is headed:

1865
First Organization of the Society
President
William Chearnley Esquire
Vice Presidents
Captain Hardy, R.A.
James Thomson Esquire
Council
(several names)

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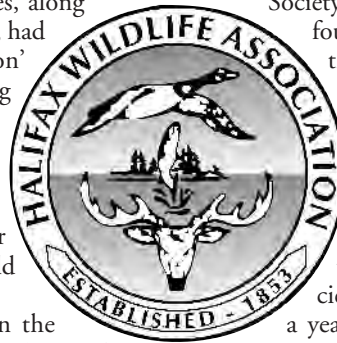
- The second page is headed:

River Fisheries and Game Protection Society
Halifax, N.S. January 30, 1865
First General Meeting
(etc. etc.)

Because of the appearance of William Chearnley's name as President, as well as that of Captain Hardy, who was a founding member back in 1853, it is apparent that a continuum of the original Society was maintained from its founding to this re-organization meeting of January 30, 1865.

This new name, *River Fisheries and Game Protection Society* lasted officially only until February 18, 1871, although the final meeting of the Society had actually been held a year earlier on February 23, 1870, with William Chearnley (now Lt. Colonel) still in the chair. The Vice President was William Harrington (a founding member of the original Society) and the Secretary was Joe Collins. Interest in the aims and purpose of the Society was waning and membership had dropped to low numbers. A year passed before matters had finally been wrapped up. Secretary Collins penned this memorandum dated February 18, 1871:

"A public meeting was convened in or about August (1870) - only two (2) members attended besides the Secretary. After communication with the President I was ordered by that gentleman to wind up the affairs of The Society which had



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of itself collapsed for want of support”.

Lt. Colonel Chearnley died in July 1871. Probably in failing health for some time, he must have lost much of his energy and vigor in maintaining the strong leadership role he had always shown in protecting the province's natural resources, clearly affecting also the purpose for the Society's existence. With his fast waning powers went the very life of the Society.

So there came to an end the very important influence that enlightened men of good education had had on the principles of conservation, notably on the freshwater fishery and game. This was especially significant since the government had practically no human resources, with the exception of a lone Chief Game Commissioner, itself with which to enforce what few game laws there were on the books. But, happily, this was not to be for very long.

An annual report for 1880 held at the Nova Scotia Archives shows that a new Society had been established six years earlier on March 21, 1874. This is firmly corroborated by the second of the two minute books held by the Piers family, covering meetings held between March 14, 1874 and January 28, 1891. The first minutes recorded in this book are of March 14, 1874, for a meeting held by a group of men interested in forming a game and fishery protection association when a committee was formed to frame a constitution and by-laws. The next set of minutes records a second meeting of subscribers which was held at The Masonic Hall on March 21, 1874, when a new constitution was adopted. Article 1 of this constitution reads. "That the name of this Association shall be 'The Game and Inland Fishery Protection Society of Nova Scotia'".

The following executive was elected:
President Col. Stewart

Vice President Hon. W.A. Henry
Vice President Col Franklyn
Treasurer M.B. Almon
Secretary Fitz Cochran

The 1880 annual report of *The Game and Inland Fishery Protection Society of Nova Scotia*, its sixth, listed the 109 subscribers, 34 of whom were officers of the Army and Navy. The membership fee was \$2.00.

The Society recommended to the Legislature that the non-resident game license be increased to \$50.00 from \$20.00 and this was passed. The license was for the whole year, from August to August. Residents of the province were not required to hold a license. The report quoted the Game Laws in full, noting that officers of Her Majesty's Service and officers of the Army and Navy on service in this garrison and station (i.e. Nova Scotia) were required to pay only \$5.00 for the license. Any such officers who were members of the Society were exempted from carrying a license.

Officers of the Society for 1880

President:

Robert Morrow, Esq.

Vice Presidents:

E.G. Stayner, Esq.

Lt. Col. Clerke

Secretary and Treasurer:

A.E. Harrington, Esq.

From its inception in 1853 to 1908, the Society administered and enforced the game laws of the province, levying fines and collecting license fees through the employ of county commissioners and wardens throughout the whole province. These officials were answerable and reported to the Society which used monies from fines and licenses to pay them through the balance of the nineteenth century until it was eventually subsidized by the government for such costs from the late 1890s to 1908 when the government then assumed the administration of the Game Act through its own game commission. Archival records show that the Society received annual grants of \$700.00 for 1903 and 1904, and \$500.00 for each of years 1905, 1906 and 1907. The Society now ceased being an enforcement

arm of government transforming into an organization of sportsmen keen to monitor and advise government on matters pertaining to wildlife and the natural habitat in general. Where before it had a province-wide presence through its commissioners and wardens, now it became a game organization of sportsmen based in Halifax.

Dr. Edward Breck, an American sportsman, writer and scholar, visited Nova Scotia often through the early 1900s to hunt and fish. In a book which he edited, *Sporting Guide to Nova Scotia*, in 1909, he had this to say:

"The Nova Scotia Game and Inland Fishery Protection Society, organized in Halifax in the early 50s of the preceding century, boasts of being the oldest game organization in North America that has had a continuous existence".

That Breck reports in 1909 that The Society enjoyed a 'continuous existence' since its inception in 1853 probably reflects a common belief that, despite an apparent absence of a game organization during the period 1870-74, there nevertheless remained a strong movement pressing for thoughtful management of game and inland fisheries as if there had never been an interruption of an official club carrying the message.

In an article in the December 10, 1908, issue of *The Halifax Morning Chronicle* by R.A. Johnson, he reported that the People's Game and Fish Protective Association of Nova Scotia was organized on September 11, 1906, largely through the efforts of H. Dwight Ruggles of Annapolis Royal, and that "branches have been established in various parts of the province and the work of organization is still actively proceeding". Indeed it must have, for just two years earlier, George Piers, the long serving secretary of the older Society, commented in his annual report for the year 1906 that the new association had "upwards of 800 members, with branches established in all the more important counties of the Province". He referred to there being "per-


continued on next page

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fect unanimity of feeling” between the two organizations, welcoming members of the new group to attend the Society’s upcoming annual meeting as “allies in a common field of action”. Representatives of both organizations held meetings to discuss joining forces in some form or other, but no resolution of this idea was reached, partly because of the matter of government funding which the older Society probably guarded somewhat jealously.

The officers of The Society for 1906 were:

President Hon. Lawrence G. Power
 1st Vice John E. DeWolf
 2nd Vice A.P. Silver
 Treasurer Harris S. Tremaine
 Secretary George Piers

The annual dues were still \$2.00, unchanged from 1880.

The Society continued on into the early 20th century as an influential voice on game matters although without the earlier authority of power of enforcement of game laws. There is a dearth of documents such as old minutes and newspaper clippings in archives covering the early 1900s. This is due, in large measure, to the passing in 1908 of George Piers who had been such an assiduous preserver of these things while in his role as secretary of the Society for the 15 years prior to his death. But what he did leave has enabled us to know something of just what it was like in the province’s wildlands back then.

Now came another name change. On May 3, 1912, was passed ‘an Act to incorporate *The Nova Scotia Game Society*’. (*N.S. Laws 1912 Chapter 221*). We aren’t able to peruse minutes kept of a meeting of the old Society which likely could shed some light on why it was felt necessary to make a name change because those minutes probably don’t exist. But we do know that there was no break in the activities of the former Game and Inland Fishery Protection Society of Nova Scotia since 1906 because Section 1 of the Act lists the executive who were formerly on the executive back then, like Lawrence G. Power, John E. DeWolf and Harris S. Tremaine, but now missing that of George Piers. Now it might be helpful to list the vari-

ous names our association has taken through the years - i.e. from 1853 to this latest in 1912:

The Provincial Association (1853)

The River Fisheries and Game Protection Society (1865)

The Game and Inland Fishery Protection Society of Nova Scotia (1874)

The Nova Scotia Game Society (1912)

The last named above carried on more as an association representing a local constituency, namely Halifax County, than what it had previously been recognized as - a provincial watch-dog over how the game laws were being administered with attendant powers of enforcement. Because of this and the founding of the fore-mentioned People’s Game and Fish Protective Association of Nova Scotia, it was clear that the Society should have a name reflecting its more localized base, so, on March 28, 1927, it became *The Halifax County Fish and Game Protective Association*. F.B. McCurdy was its first President, Dr. J.E. Lawlor was Vice-President and Major W.D. Simpson was Secretary.

The annual report for 1930 of the Association shows F.B. McCurdy still as President, but Mr. Justice Mellish as Vice-President and W.E. Tibbs as Secretary-Treasurer. This report is enlightening in that it mentions the formation of the Fish and Game Association of Nova Scotia. But there was an issue - whether or not to join this provincial association. In the report, ‘Some of the members of your committee are in favour of tying up closely with the newer Provincial Association, while others think that the Association should remain a voluntary one without subsidy or favour from any Government – but recommends that should an affiliation be preferred by the members, the Halifax Association should preserve full freedom of actions and speech.’

The Association was now one of many autonomous local county fish and game associations which were affiliated with the provincial association, sending delegates to its Annual Conventions and, starting in 1937, paying annual dues (0.15 per member was the inaugural fee). Then

in 1936 was started the Halifax East-Guysborough West Fish and Game Association, largely through the efforts of Boyd Prest of Mooseland, so this obviously necessitated a name change for the Halifax County Club; in either 1937 or 1938 it was re-named the *Halifax West Fish and Game Protective Association*, the sixth name change, with the President being H.P. Moffett, Vice-President was F.A. Groves, Treasurer, M.S. Mussett and Secretary, C.F. Bowes (Writer’s private papers).

The report of the executive committee of the Halifax West Fish and Game Protective Association for 1946, presented by President George A. Chudleigh, mentioned the formation in 1946 of the Dartmouth Fish and Game Protective Association. Also mentioned was the *defeat* of a motion the Association had presented at the annual convention of the provincial association calling for - ‘*A stricter prohibition of fishing for salmon with spinner*’. Back then, angling for salmon could only be done by ‘fly surface fishing’ but to many, this phrase needed clarification since a liberal interpretation of the wording was somehow being applied by some people which caused concern with conservation-minded anglers. Through the late 1930s into the 1950s were calls for using spinner-type lures and, conversely, calls for stricter penalties for the use of such (Writer’s private papers).

In the Association’s newsletter, *Wildlife News*, of January 20, 1968, it was announced that, effective January 1, 1968, The Halifax West Fish and Game Protective Association was henceforth to be named *Halifax Wildlife Association*, our seventh name change. And so our Association’s history is now recorded to this 150th anniversary year, *commemorating us as the oldest association of anglers and hunters in North America.* ❧

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150 Years Of Citizen Participation!

By Peter J. Weal, Past President,
Halifax Wildlife Association

Over the years, I have been asked questions like “Why should I join The Halifax Wildlife Association?” or “What difference would I make?”

I suppose there are many and varied reasons why anyone joins any type of organization. My answer has always been, “Being a member gives you the opportunity to voice concerns you may have regarding the many aspects of wildlife, for instance habitat protection or environmental abuse of fresh water systems. Also, it gives you the strength in numbers when it comes to raising concerns when violations do occur.”

A number of the controversies that HWA has brought to the notice of the general public have surfaced through the vigilance and observations of Members who became aware of environmental infractions whilst hunting, fishing, hiking or just enjoying the great outdoors. Being a wildlife association member, and therefore perhaps more informed than the average citizen, they tend to be more observant and protective of wildlife and its habitat.

In 1983, Members of HWA brought to the attention of the then Dept. of Lands and Forests, Dept. of Fisheries and the Federal Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, concerns regarding the abuse and pollution which was occurring on the Little Salmon River. This small river, located on the eastern outskirts of Dartmouth, was being subjected to illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles, crushed or damaged shipping containers, discarded 45 gallon oil drums and numerous other general garbage and trash. Burning of old tires was also occurring. Large quantities of old tires (obtained from nearby wrecked autos) were piled, liberally soaked with gasoline and set ablaze. The fires were used to salvage copper from old telephone cable. The cable was piled on to the fires to burn away the outer casing allowing the molten metal left behind to run into the river. The thick black smoke emitted was a constant irritant to a nearby residential area.

The repeated fires left the bank of the river blackened and littered with burnt and twisted pieces of metal. It also destroyed a large section of the undergrowth

and foliage that is so important to sustain aquatic and insect life along its banks. For all intents and purposes, the Little Salmon River, if not quite dead, was in fact a dying river. The HWA's continued pressure convinced the government agencies to step in and put a stop to such practices.

Over a period of 12 to 18 months, work crews moved in and removed monstrous loads of debris. Truckloads of new soil was brought in and spread along the banks. HWA, with the aid of scores of Boy Scouts, Cubs and Beavers planted thousands of Red Spruce and White Pine seedlings. Now, some 20 years later, these same trees are 20 to 30 feet high and flourishing. Large signs were erected prohibiting dumping and burning in the area and local businesses have since become more respectful of their environmental responsibilities. HWA officially adopted the river under the Provincial Fisheries Adopt-a-Stream Program and HWA Members have, for more than 20 years, continued to monitor the river.

Another Success Story Took Place In The Then City Of Dartmouth In The Early Summer Of 1989

For a number of years citizens of Dartmouth had enjoyed the pleasure of being able to drive, cycle and walk to many of the beautiful lakes situated within the City's limits to fish. This was a popular sport for young children, their parents and senior citizens, a sport that was encouraged and facilitated by stocking of the lakes with trout. However, an altercation occurred between a resident who lived adjacent to one of the lakes and an angler (both of whom should have known better) creating a situation that potentially jeopardized this recreational opportunity.

Complaints laid by the resident to aldermen in that Ward created a public commotion that was eventually brought before the Dartmouth City Council for resolution. According to the two local Aldermen who made so called ‘surveys’ of their constituents, *All* the residents wanted the stocking of trout in not only Oathill Lake, but also *All* of the city's lakes to be curtailed immediately!

Enter members of HWA. With strength in numbers, HWA set out to see



what was really happening. It seems that some residents (but not all) living adjacent to the lakes objected to what they considered to be ‘intrusions’ by ‘outsiders’. It was their view that the lake and its shoreline were, in fact, their private preserve! Stocking of the lakes was considered only to encourage this intrusion and they were seeking that it be stopped.

The Dept. Of Inland Fisheries, which was the agency that carried out fish stocking programs in provincial waterways, invited HWA's further involvement. Our challenge included countering articles that were appearing in the local press, most of which were attributed to the two city aldermen who were targeting the anglers. One alderman claimed that the constituents in his Ward were “100% in favour of having the stocking program discontinued”. It turned out that this statement was somewhat exaggerated and he eventually produced only 5 or 6 letters to that effect.

Some weeks later at a scheduled Meeting of the City Council the matter was most dramatically brought to a satisfactory conclusion - in favor of the Angling Citizens of Dartmouth. Aldermen in all Wards of the city were inundated by telephone calls from the citizenry, all clamoring for the continued stocking of the Dartmouth Lakes for the pleasure and recreational enjoyment of all. When it came to a vote, each and every alderman soundly defeated the proposal by the two lone dissenting aldermen that had called for the stocking program to be stopped.

Membership in any organization gives each and every member of a group added empowerment to seek, fight and if the cause is just - *Win!*

Being able to have a forum such as HWA to voice one's concerns and thus gain support for a cause is one reason to join. And that is why HWA has survived for 150 years - Its Membership. ❧

Passing On The Tradition

By Frank Oram, Director, Halifax Wildlife Association

Every year it seems that there are fewer people taking part in hunting and fishing activities. Across Canada and the United States, wildlife agencies are reporting fewer hunting and fishing licenses being sold. Conservation and wildlife clubs are having difficulty attracting new members. There are a number of reasons for this, including such things as our aging population, more restrictive gun laws, the trend in our society toward greater urbanization, and a growing anti-hunting sentiment. However, chief among these factors is the fact that fewer young people are participating in the traditional pursuits of hunting and fishing.



The main challenge here is that there are so many sports and activities (including computer games and the internet) competing with hunting and fishing for the attention of our youth. More urban and suburban families are without close access to good fishing and hunting areas and there is less time available for parents to take children hunting or fishing. Many young people are never exposed to these sports, being raised in families where neither of the parents fish or hunt. If this declining trend continues, our traditional

hunting and fishing activities will be threatened. If these activities are to survive and thrive, we must have more young people involved in them.

Many wildlife organizations and sportsman's clubs are trying to address this problem by sponsoring such things as fishing derbies, shooting competitions, junior memberships, fly tying and fly casting courses. Organizations such as the North American Wild Turkey Federation have made the introduction of young people to hunting and fishing one of their top priorities. Through their JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) program, children 17 years and younger learn the basic outdoor skills necessary to become successful stewards of our natural resources.

The Halifax Wildlife Association, throughout its long history, has supported youth participation in hunting and fishing. In fact, one of the prime objectives of the Halifax Wildlife Association is to reach out to the youth in its jurisdiction to educate and encourage them in outdoor activities.

Ours was one of the first organizations in the province to become involved in mandatory hunter safety training. The Association supplied qualified instructors to teach new hunters, many of them young people, the basic knowledge and ethics necessary to participate safely in the sport. The Association continued to do this for a number of years.

HWA sponsors annually two young people to attend the Junior Conservation School. For years the Wildlife Federations of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island operated this School jointly. More recently the Nova Scotia Guides Association has carried on the initiative. The school operates each year for one week. It teaches young people hunt-



N.S Sport fishing Weekend 1998, Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth, NS. Shown is 8 yr. old Martika Downey with HWA board member Ray Taillon.

ing, fishing, canoeing and orientation skills. Strong emphasis is placed on learning the principles of conservation.

Each year, on the first weekend in June, HWA organizes its Trout-a-Rama. This is a fishing derby specifically for youth 16 years of age and younger held in conjunction with the NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' annual Sportfishing Weekend. At this event, youngsters learn, with the assistance and guidance from Association members, the principles of conservation and sportsmanship. As well they have a lot of fun. Every year more young people are taking part in the Trout-a-Rama as word of its success has spread through the community.

The Association is a regular participant in the annual Parks Are For People Day at Dollar Lake. This event is promoted by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. HWA erects a display booth and organizes a number of events such as fly casting, fly tying, ar-

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N.S Sport fishing Weekend 1998, Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth, NS. Shown is Ashley Underwood, 9yrs. old, with HWA board member Neil MacAskill.

chery and outdoor games all aimed at youth.

The latest youth-oriented activity in which the Halifax Wildlife Association has become involved is the Youth Waterfowl Hunter Education Project. This program is targeted at introducing young people to the basics of waterfowl hunting

and conservation. It is being undertaken with sponsorship by the NS Habitat Conservation Fund and with the assistance of the NB Wildlife Federation. HWA is acting as the lead agency in coordinating the delivery of a series of workshops throughout Nova Scotia. In collaboration with other wildlife groups, two training workshops have been held thus far and others are expected soon.

This is yet another example of how our wildlife association is working to involve our youth in hunting and fishing pursuits. Not content to rest on its laurels, the Association continues to look for additional ways to promote outdoor activities and conservation ethics to our youth.

While wildlife organizations, like the Halifax Wildlife Association strive to reverse the declining participation in hunting and fishing, individual sportsmen have an important role to play as well. We can all do our part in continuing the traditions by taking a young person on a hunting or fishing trip. Many dedicated sportsmen can trace their introduction to the outdoors to such an initiative by a parent, relative or a friend. Take a young



N.S Sport fishing Weekend 1998, Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth, NS. Show in 11 yr. old Mathew Yates with HWA board member Ray Taillon.

person with you on your next outing! You just may be introducing him/her to an activity which could become a lifetime pursuit and in the process, you will be helping to preserve our precious outdoor heritage. ❄️

Halifax Wildlife Association President's Comments

The Halifax Wildlife Association is proudly celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2003. I am very proud and humbled to be the president at this milestone. Imagine the foresight to recognize the need for a group such as ours back in 1853.

Our treasurer, Bud Inglis, has been going through some of the old Minutes for material for our newsletter. It's interesting to see that the reasons for starting the Association in 1853 are some of the same reasons to keep it going today - damaging forest harvesting practices, urban and industrial development ruining or limiting the hunting and fishing areas and fish and game harvesting practices that ignored conservation needs.

Our latest focus has been on young people - trying to get them involved in the outdoors. There are so many things

competing for the time of our youth as well as older people that a lot of traditional sports and pastimes are being forgotten and left behind.

Halifax Wildlife organizes annual events with youth. Our most popular event, the Trout-a-Rama (a fishing derby with over 280 participants last year) really seems to generate a lot of enthusiasm and excitement about fishing. This year we also hosted a Waterfowl Hunting Workshop for youth 14 to 17 years old to introduce them to the sport in a safety-first way. All the participants came away with smiles after the day was done.

Again this year we will be holding the Trout-A-Rama at Cunard Pond On Williams Lake in Spryfield on the first Saturday in June. And we will also be taking the time to have an Anniversary Celebration Party for our members and invited guests Friday, June 13, 2003 at the Museum of Natural History. That

celebration concludes a week of public displays of traditional hunting and fishing memorabilia at the museum.

The Halifax Wildlife Association is proud to be associated with the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Much work is done throughout the year under the umbrella of the Federation in collaboration with other wildlife clubs. Through the Federation we gain access to senior government wildlife staff and decision-makers and input to government policy development on wildlife and other matters of importance to our members. This access has even allowed us to take our concerns and positions to the federal government when necessary. Thank you!

The Halifax Wildlife Association, like most non-profit, volunteer-based organizations, has been finding it difficult to attract and retain members over the last few years. We would like to see this trend turned around. We encourage anyone with like-minded views to join and help keep this proud origination around for another 150 years. ❄️

*Yours in conservation,
Bill Gray,
President, Halifax Wildlife Association*



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The Boys Of Autumn

By Bill Wallace, Secretary, Halifax Wildlife Association

The boys have hunted deer at Doug and Mary's farm in Pictou County every year for over thirty years now. The boys include Doug and Mary's son Bill and son-in-law Mike and six of their friends. Daughter Ann, while not officially or biologically one of the boys, regularly and often successfully participates in the hunt and is usually the recipient of Doug's observations on where he has been seeing deer around his woodlots. On each weekend and some weekdays of the season you will find at least half of the boys hunting the rolling wooded hills around the farm and partaking of Mary's home cooking.

The first few weeks of the recent season were not kind to the boys, with no deer taken and few even seen. On the other hand, Doug's son John, who hunts with me in the Trafalgar area, managed to harvest a nice buck on the first morning of the season. It didn't take John long to recall that during some of his dry years (and there were a lot), the boys, only on occasion mind you, may have been less than sympathetic towards his plight. Being unselfish and given his recent demonstration of his outstanding ability and expertise as a hunter, John felt he should share some of his knowledge, and ultimately his success, with the boys. John, with my assistance, would put on a deer-hunting seminar at the farm!

To help defray the cost we applied for and received a grant for the seminar from a wildlife preservation group after we explained to them that few if any of the proposed participants had inflicted any serious injury on wildlife in recent years.

We decided to hold the seminar on a Saturday. Although Saturday is a hunting day, John didn't think any of the potential participants would bag a deer without the benefit of the seminar any-

way (with the possible exception of his father Doug and sister Ann). The seminar ran from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. John figured the early start would identify any bed-huggers in the group for special counseling. Unfortunately, John forgot to ask Mary if she would provide lunch for the participants until about eleven that morning, but other than that the day got off to a good start.

Prior to the seminar, participants who had not bagged a deer within the past three years were required to complete and submit a workbook so that they would not unduly delay the progress of other less mediocre hunters in the group.

The seminar was divided into modules and into topics within the modules. For example, the module on "Hunter Ethics" included a topic on "What the Bible Says about Filling Your Buddy's Doe Tag". The module on "Psychology of Deer Hunting" included "Why Some People Are Afraid of Deer" and "Sounds in the Woods after Dark". The module on "Environment" covered "Carry-it-in, Carry-it-out, How to Defecate in a Ziploc Bag" while the "Safety" module included "How to Avoid Becoming Entangled in a Ziploc Bag" and "Don't Pack the Baked Beans in a Ziploc Bag".


During the seminar, John solicited true-life descriptions from the boys of situations where they messed-up and then John explained how he would have successfully handled the situation. John wasn't really laughing at him when Brian told about the time he was sleeping in a

chopping, minding his own business, when a coyote ran across his hand – it was just that it was so funny! John wasn't sure what he would have done differently but didn't think that he would have messed in his pants.

The seminar included an interesting roundtable discussion. I intend to fully comply with dentist Ted's request that we keep any teeth from deer that we harvest because they use them to make dentures. I always wondered where the expression "buck teeth" came from and now I guess I know. Since deer only have lower teeth, I meant to ask him how they make upper dentures but forgot to do so. John probably knows the answer anyway - maybe they turn them upside down.

The final part, and a highlight of the seminar, was a demonstration by John at the rifle range on "Head Shots for Experts". It was a shame that Richard got lost in the woods at the range - John and I had no way of knowing that he was gun shy and would run off into the woods when John fired the first shot. Apparently this has happened before since nobody seemed overly concerned. It wasn't a cold night and Doug found him the next morning in time to have him back to the farm for Mary's Sunday dinner and the presentation of course certificates.

Along with the certificates, successful participants received an autographed 8"x10" photo of John with his big buck. ❧



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Trout-A-Rama

By Bob Blom, Director, Halifax
Wildlife Association

Halifax Wildlife Association will be holding the 11th annual Trout-A-Rama on Saturday June 7, 2003 at Cunard Pond, Spryfield. This event is open to all children (girls and boys) up to age 16. Children 12 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult.



HWA Fish-A-Rama registration booth, Williams Lake (Cunard Pond).

In the past this event has been very popular with both children and parents. For many years it was organized under the stewardship of Neil MacAskill and held at Red Bridge Pond on Waverly Road, Dartmouth. In 2000 it was moved to Cunard Pond on Williams Lake Road, Spryfield.

The objective of the Trout-A-Rama is to introduce young children and their parents to the joys of fishing. We set about achieving this by making it easy and attractive to participate - supplying rods, reels, bait, prizes and food as well as a good location and, of course, trout. Trout are supplied by the NS Depart-



Westley Underwood at Red Bridge Pond in June, 1998 for HWA Trout-A-Rama

ment of Agriculture & Fisheries. With their cooperation we have been able to offer many large fish and even some tagged fish for special prizes. This has been especially popular with the children.

The Trout-A-Rama is held on the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Weekend, a special fishing promotion weekend for which no license is required. In recent years we have concentrated our efforts on introducing fishing as a family sport. We teach the participants the need for catch limitations. We provide an opportunity to learn more about the necessity of sustaining our natural resources and for leaving the areas they use clean and tidy.

In 2002 we had more than 280 participants, including children, parents and volunteers. It was a fun filled day enjoyed by everyone. Our original objectives have been met and surpassed by providing an opportunity for children and their parents to enjoy fishing.

We gratefully acknowledge our generous sponsors - Sobey's, Fishin' Fever, Canadian Tire and McDonald's.

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Are You Concerned

By Mike Pollard, Director, Halifax Wildlife Association

Are you concerned about anything to do with the animals, fish, birds or their habitat here in Nova Scotia? If you are, how do you voice these concerns and have the issue addressed? These creatures do not have a voice of their own and cannot raise any issues of concern. Imagine if you lived in an area where your home was slowly being destroyed and you had no means of making anyone aware of your plight. The wildlife of Nova Scotia requires us to be their voice in order to stay healthy and abundant. They are unable to act to protect themselves.

As I travel, explore and play in our beautiful Nova Scotia outdoors I cannot help but feel and be aware of the lessening of encounters with our once abundant wildlife. Along with the drop in frequency of sightings, I observe a difference in the type of wildlife that I chance upon. I see fewer deer, fox and rabbits but a lot more coyote. I am also seeing these coyote closer to dwellings than in previous years. It is becoming common to see a coyote from the seat of the family car as we travel around our highways.

Another observation is the change in our forests, waters and waterways and the availability and condition of the habitat available for our wildlife. Acid rain changes the living conditions of our lakes and streams to the point where trout no longer have a home in a great percent of our province's water systems. The change in PH levels due to the additional acid in the water results in trout spawn being unable to survive. This leads to other species of fish taking over some of the best traditional trout streams in the province. It sometimes leads to the purposeful and illegal introduction of new species into our water systems by folks who want to catch something when out fishing.

Forest practices, as much as they have been improving, leave a lot to be desired. We still clear-cut and encroach upon waterways with impunity. Sometimes the

individuals cutting will even burn the leftovers of the tree harvest and the resultant ash finds its way into the water system, adding to an already existing acid problem. Large machinery utilized to increase the efficiency of the forest harvest often leave a scar on the landscape for many years after they have finished. The ruts made from the tires and treads of these giant machines can still be followed forty and even sixty years later.

Access by ATV has opened areas once considered remote to all but the occasional determined naturalist. Careful use of these toys can add a new dimension to our ability to get close to nature. However, improper use and the disregard of the environment being traversed can lead to serious problems.

New housing developments, decreased farming, massive clear-cutting, acid rain, increasing human population and the construction of new roads all generate issues for the animals who share our world. All told, we are having a tremendous impact on the wildlife and their habitat here in Nova Scotia and the HRM.

We are concerned. We want to let you know we care and are determined to assist the wildlife of Nova Scotia in their effort to sustain themselves. They are a significant part of our heritage and deserve our efforts. Who and what are we? We are the Halifax Wildlife Association and we are "Anglers, hunters and other supporters for sustainable wildlife and habitat". We want you to help us celebrate our 150th anniversary and use this year to focus on those issues that may be addressed to better the living conditions for wildlife and help sustain them for our own children and their children's enjoyment.

Join us in celebrating the beauty and bounty of our beautiful province. Join us in our efforts to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and their habitats. Join us in addressing the issues that will guarantee our children have the opportunities to enjoy an interaction with nature that includes all the species that are now part of our environment. Take an active

part regarding any issues that may negatively impact any of our wildlife or the habitat they presently enjoy. If you are concerned about any issue associated with our wildlife or their habitat and were not sure of how to be heard, join us and add your voice to ours. In fact, make our voice yours. Get involved today. ✻

*Town Hall Meeting
On the state of the
Canadian Firearms
Registration System
Special Guest Speaker
Mr. Gary Breitkreuz, MP*

*Where: Royal Canadian Legion
Branch #26*

*41 Brunswick Street,
Truro, NS*

*When:
Sunday, March 30, 2003*

*Time: Doors open at
12 noon for a 1 PM start*

*Gary Breitkreuz is a
Canadian Alliance Member of
Parliament from Saskatchewan.
He is the official opposition's voice
on the issue of Firearms legisla-
tion. Using freedom of information
requests Gary has discovered
many flaws in this Billion Dollar
Boondoggle and like others
predicted the gun mess the
government is now in. A charge of
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Halifax Wildlife Association's New Website

By Frank Oram, Director, Halifax Wildlife Association

In celebration of our 150th anniversary, a website has been created for the Halifax Wildlife Association. This collaborative effort among members of the Board of Directors has produced a definitive description of our Association. Board members have recognized the importance of having a presence together with other prominent conservation organizations on the World Wide Web. A great deal of effort was expended in creating this website which depicts the Association's programs and many accomplishments over the years. This website serves as a way for related institutions and organizations and interested individuals to become aware about us and hopefully to get to know us.

Among the many features of the website is a brief history of the Association and a description of its objectives. This provides a background of who we are, where we came from and what we stand for. A list of the Directors on our Board tells a visitor to our site about our governance. Another link, Events and Programs, provides key dates that are important to our membership and for the interested reader, a brief description of the many programs and activities in which our association is involved. A section called "In the News" links to the current issue of our newsletter. There are also links to press releases and to fund-raising activities we are undertaking. A key link on our homepage is to our membership application form. HWA views the website as an important vehicle for obtaining new members.

The web is becoming an effective means of communicating with our members, conservation related organizations and individuals interested in wildlife issues. Our website is, in every sense, a work in progress. We will add new features to the site so that visitors will know about the important contributions that the Association continues to make in the community and to the province of Nova Scotia. We encourage other clubs within the NS Federation of Anglers and Hunters to develop their own websites to get out an even broader message about what local wildlife associations are doing. We also invite everyone to visit our website at <http://halifaxwildlife.ns.ca/> and we would be happy to receive your comments and suggestions. ❧

Halifax Wildlife Association 150th Anniversary Year Calendar Of Events

Each year the Halifax Wildlife Association sponsors or participates in a number of events aimed at furthering our mission as "Anglers, hunters and other supporters for sustainable wildlife and habitat". In addition we hold events intended to raise the profile of the organization or raise funds for its operation. In 2003 we

have added special events aimed at celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Halifax Wildlife Association - the oldest association of anglers and hunters in North America.

For reference, the events for 2003 are:
March - Nova Outdoors Special Edition Dedicated to Halifax Wildlife Association

March 20 to 23 - HWA Booth at Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show, Exhibition Park

March 28 to 30 - NS Federation of Anglers & Hunters Annual Meeting, Truro

April 16 - Members Night, NS Community College, Bell Rd - Speaker - Don Dodds

May 10 - 8:30 to 12:30 Purcells Cove Rd. Clean-up (from Purcells Cove to Herring Cove. Contact: Bob Blom 477-0178 for information)

June 7 - Trout-a-Rama, Cunard Pond (Sports Fishing Weekend)

June 9 to 14 - Display Honoring HWA 150th Anniversary - NS Museum, Summer St

June 12 to 14 - Canadian Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting in Halifax

June 13 - HWA 150th Anniversary Celebration - Nova Scotia Museum, Summer St

July - HWA Display for Children & Adults on "Parks are for People" Day at Dollar Lake

October 15 - Members Night and HWA Annual Meeting, NS Community College, Bell Rd ❧

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Halifax Wildlife Association Cleanup

By Steve Cook, Director, Halifax Wildlife Association

Over the past 20 years Halifax Wildlife Association has been conducting cleanups of garbage from wildlife habitat areas around lakes, streams and woodland access roads. The specific areas involved



have been:

1. Little Salmon River (on the eastern outskirts of Dartmouth). Here our cleanup led to our adoption of the stream under the provincial Adopt-a-Stream program. With backing and assistance from the Dept. of Environment and participation from Scouts Canada, garbage and contamination were removed, new top-soil installed and trees planted.

2. Musquodoboit River. Cleanups of garbage at a popular fishing place were conducted on two occasions.

3. Albro Lake (Dartmouth). This is a popular lake access area for urban recreational fishing.

4. MacIntosh Run (Halifax City - Spryfield). A major feature of this cleanup was the number of shopping carts retrieved from the stream and surrounding areas.

5. Club Road (off Herring Cove Rd). This cleanup required the removal of significant quantities of construction waste material. Here we were assisted by a number of individuals performing community service through the NS Correctional Services Fines Options Program.

6. North Preston (woods road on Dartmouth Water Supply watershed land). Due to the quantity of garbage present at this site, this cleanup was a major undertaking. Our task was aided and supported by the Dartmouth Water Commission with two trucks and a bulldozer supplied by the City of Dartmouth.

7. Nine Mile River. Community involvement was solicited via flyers and visits to neighbors adjoining the site and local businesses. Our work was facilitated with a 4 wheel drive vehicle and a canoe. Some financial support was provided under NSPI's Waterworks Program.

8. Purcell's Cove Rd. This scenic drive between Armdale and Herring Cove passes through areas that remain relatively forested and frequented by wildlife - and all too often by trash carelessly tossed from passing vehicles.

Although our organization has had some support from volunteers, Board members have performed the majority of work in conducting these cleanups. We encourage greater participation by all who care about the health and appearance of our woodland areas.



Garbage disposal policies of municipal governments have had a large influence on garbage dumping in wildlife habitat areas. Tipping fees, inconvenient operating hours of disposal sites and strict enforcement of complicated rules on the types and quantities of garbage permitted at those sites have led less scrupulous individuals to bypass the system.

HWA has provided and continues to provide input to decision-makers asking for a more reasoned approach to waste disposal policies. It will take the cooperation of all parties involved to resolve the issue. Your membership will help us move forward. ✻

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The Story Of Our Logo

By Bud Inglis, Treasurer, Halifax Wildlife Association

Formerly the Halifax West Fish and Game Protective Association, the Halifax Wildlife Association adopted its new name effective January 1, 1968. At that time a new logo was introduced to the membership in the association's Vol. 1, No. 1, January 20, 1968, issue of the *Wildlife News*.

'At the original suggestion of Board of Trade program director, Mike Kelly, who is retained by our association to look after administration detail, a crest was drawn up "freehand" by Petty Officer Daryl Croft, an electronics instructor of the Fleet

School in Halifax. Croft revised the crest once at the suggestion of directors who felt the Canada Goose a more fitting emblem than the original canvasback duck. From there, a final drawing took one weekend of painstaking and exacting work. *Wildlife News* can't pay Chief Croft, but the editors wish to say a sincere thanks on behalf of readers everywhere.'

Through the efforts of Doug Bowes, a former Director of our association, our logo was registered by the Registrar of Trademarks of Industry Canada in the *Trademarks Journal* dated May 17, 2000. ❧

Woods Clean-Up Sign Project

By Bill LaPaix, Director, Halifax Wildlife Association

The intent of our project is to help clean up the woodlands in the Halifax Regional Municipality, mostly around trails, wood roads, lakes, rivers, power lines, etc.

We plan to do this by taking out debris left behind by the users - fishermen, hunters, campers, boaters, hikers and commercial users. After the cleanup we will post signs in the area asking everyone to take out his or her garbage with them.

These signs will be installed by our committee and volunteers in areas that we visit regularly, or in other suitable areas - small or large - suggested to us by our membership. The signs are not intended for parkland.

Finalized last year, the signs are constructed from non-biodegradable plastic for extended durability. Any of our members who would like to put the signs up in areas that people frequent, please phone Bill at (902) 477-8491. The signs are 9" X 12" and will fit in a backpack. The signs are provided with holes for attachment with nails or ties.

This is a great project to start the Spring off with at your favorite fishing or hiking spot. ❧

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Random Casts

Fishing With The Queen Of The Waters

By Don MacLean

While many anglers consider the mayfly hatch to be the highlight of spring fishing I have often found that, year in and year out I have better fishing when using caddis fly imitations. Caddis, which are members of the order of insects known as Trichoptera, are small, moth like flies which can be distinguished by their four wings which look like a tent when folded on their back. Unlike mayflies, caddis have four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult. With 1200 species in North America, caddisflies are found in all types of aquatic habitats.

There are two main groups of caddis which are of interest to anglers, the case builders, and the free living form. Many Nova Scotia anglers are familiar with case building caddis. They spin a silk cocoon to which they attach bits of sand, sticks or bark to camouflage them from predators. The free living forms do not build shelters but hang on to a silk thread which they anchor to the bottom while they forage for food. Since most free living forms lack well developed gills they are restricted to fast running, well oxygenated water.

Caddis are found in all types of aquatic habitats throughout the year. This availability makes them very attractive to trout. I've seen a hatch of caddis flies on the snow in March. The life cycle begins with eggs laid in the water which hatch into a worm like larva. When the larva matures it makes a cocoon in which it changes into a pupa. Once the pupa has fully developed it cuts its way out of the cocoon and swims to the water surface. Some species crawl onto land to hatch while others stay in the water film as the adult fly splits out of the pupa skin and flies away. Caddis live much longer than mayflies and, since they mate on land, only the females return to the water to lay their eggs, and to be eaten by hungry trout.

Flies which imitate caddis larva and pupae are easy to tie and can be very effective. There are also many patterns which imitate the adult stage. Anglers should attempt to match the general size and colour of the natural, but I have found

almost any caddis imitation in tan, olive and dark brown from #10-#14 will be effective, with the elk hair caddis being one of the most popular. My favorite caddis imitation however, and also my all time favourite trout fly is the Queen of the Waters.

Queen Of The Waters

Hook-#10-#14
Body - Burnt Orange floss
Hackle - Brown-palmered the length

of the body

Wing - Mallard flank

This simple fly is an old English pattern which has been fooling trout on both sides of the Atlantic for over two hundred years. I hope you have some fun with it.

Tight Lines

© 2003 Don MacLean

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



Tell Us If You See Them

Two mammal species, the Canada Lynx and the American Marten, are protected under the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act and the Wildlife Act. Lynx and marten are found in very low numbers and over only a small part of their former range. Both species are at risk of extinction in Nova Scotia.


If you see a see a marten or lynx, please provide the details of your sighting to the nearest DNR office. Any live accidentally trapped lynx, or marten must be released. If a marten or lynx is accidentally killed in a trap, the animal must be turned into your local DNR office.

Many individuals and groups are working together to improve the situation for these two species in the province. Your efforts are appreciated and can help the recovery of these species.

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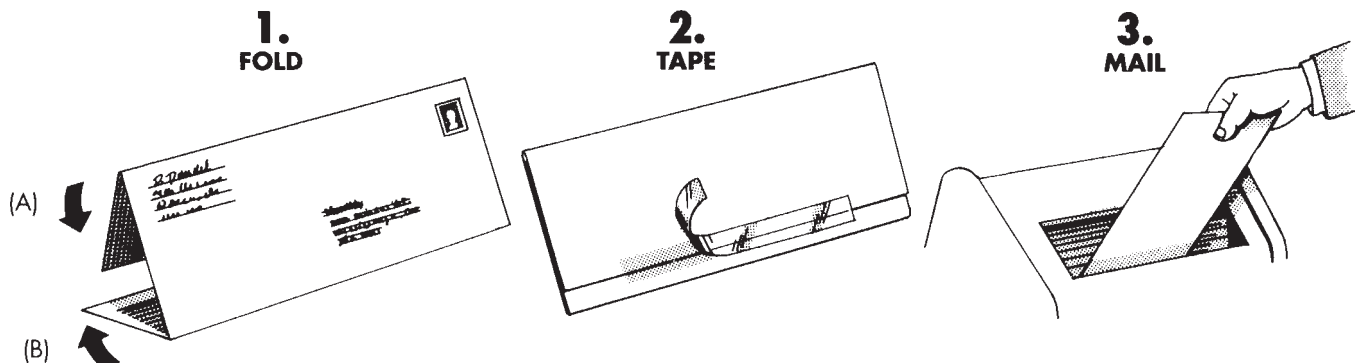


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RETURN: Day of week _____ Date _____ Month _____ Year _____

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 Skiing Snowmobiling Canoeing Kayaking Mushroom Picking Other: _____

THE TRIP: General Area: _____ Specific Area: _____

Intended Route In (be specific): _____

Intended Route Out (be specific): _____

Destination: _____

Local landmarks (i.e.. watershed, etc.): _____

Map Used (name/number): _____

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Owner: _____

or Dropped off at starting point by:

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 Whistle Snowshoes Stove Skis Food for how many days? _____ per person
 Radio type & frequencies * _____ Personal Locator Beacon* _____
 Signalling Devices (be specific)* _____ Extra clothing _____
 Cellular Phone * _____ Tent (colour) _____ Sun protection _____
 Firearms (be specific)* _____

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