

Nova Outdoors®



FREE
With
Membership
See Page 21

VOLUME 12, NO. 1
WINTER 2002/03

GPS and Computer

**What Are Your
Hunting Rights?**

**Ice Fishing
Opportunities**

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



**Check Ice Thickness
Before Fishing**

**COME IN FOR THE BEST SELECTION OF PARTS AND
ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR ATV.**



**THERE ISN'T AN ATV THAT
COMPARES WITH AN
ARCTIC CAT 400**

**60% MORE GROUND CLEARANCE THAN POLARIS XPLORER
69% MORE MORE SUSPENSION TRAVEL (F&R) THAN YAMAHA BIG BEAR
24% MORE RACK CAPACITY THAN HONDA RANCHER**

Charlie's Repair
75 County Line Road
Cleveland, NS
Tel: (902) 625-3964

High Gear Sports
619 Central Avenue,
Greenwood, NS
Tel: (902) 765-2300

G.E. Johnson Sales & Service
Windsor, NS
Toll Free: 1-866-798-5506

ARCTIC CAT®
MORE TO GO ON.™

Toads Cycle Works Ltd.
30 Lake Major Rd.
Dartmouth, NS
Tel: (902) 462-0681

Corbett's Quality Outdoor Products
45 Union Street, Liverpool, NS
Tel: (902) 354-4341 Fax: (902) 354-5929

Stone's Superior Homes Ltd.
Exit 23, New Glasgow, NS
Toll Free: 1-800-352-4419

Eel Brook Service
P.O. Box 522, Eel Brook
Yarmouth, NS
Tel: (902) 648-2331

Gates Power Equipment
Hwy. #1, Digby, NS
Tel: (902) 245-5422

ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety always wear a helmet, eye protection, and protective clothing. Never ride on paved surfaces or public roads. Never carry passengers; never engage in stunt driving; riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix and could cause injury or even death. Avoid excessive speeds and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. The Arctic Cat ATV may not be ridden by anyone under 16 years of age. Arctic Cat recommends that all riders take a training course, and that they read and understand their owner's manual before operation. For safety or training information in the U.S., call the ATV Safety Institute at (800) 887-2887. In Canada, see your dealer. Along with concerned conservationists everywhere, Arctic Cat urges you to "Tread Lightly" on public and private land. Preserve your future riding opportunities by showing respect for the environment, local laws, and the rights of others when you ride. ©2002 Arctic Cat Sales Inc., ®™Trademarks of Arctic Cat Inc., Thief River Falls, MN 56701. (218) 681-4999. Arctic Cat ATVs are world-class products from Arctic Cat Inc.

NOVA OUTDOORS

WINTER 2002/03

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message		Ice Fishing Opportunities in NS for 2003	
<i>by Gary Penney</i>	4		13
Executive Director's Voice		GPS and Computer	
<i>by Tony Rodgers</i>	5	<i>by Ken Kane</i>	15
What Did Taxpayers Get For Their Billion Dollars?		Canada's Network for Nature	
<i>by Gary Breitzkreuz, MP</i>	6		17
CFC Backgrounder		Osteophagia Among Moose of Cape Breton Highlands	
	7	<i>by Erin Roger and Tony Nette</i>	18
Commodities, or Communities		An Update on Bill C-10	
<i>by Bob Bancroft</i>	8		19
What Are Your Hunting Rights?		A Walk In The Woods	
<i>by Ed Coleman</i>	10	<i>by Don Cameron</i>	20
Random Casts		N.S. Federation of Anglers and Hunters	
<i>by Don MacLean</i>	12	Order Form	21

Cover photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

To place your ad in the next issue (Spring, 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. 1
Winter, 2002/03
**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.

Nova Outdoors is the registered trademark of Nationwide Promotions. The opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent the official views of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters nor its publishers. Nova Outdoors is published quarterly and will be made available free of charge to the membership and selected retailers, government offices, libraries and other seasonal outlets.

Special thanks to our many contributors who have assisted in this project - your continued support will be appreciated.

We cannot be held responsible for unsolicited articles or advertisers claims.

Published quarterly by

NATIONWIDE
Promotions Limited

Design and production

Angela Urquhart
Jennifer Stuart
Maria Erman

Advertising

David Boutillier
Greg Cooke
Ross McQuarrie

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

Nova Outdoors
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

Another deer hunting season has come to a close, and for many in the fraternity, the expected greeting will be "Did you get one?" The response, from those who are



Gary Penney

identified as "unlucky", a ready made excuse from age old volumes of reruns as: shot just missed it; gun misfired; behind a bush; only saw its tail; or a favorite, forgot to load the gun; are all good to support that ego great hunter image. The truth be known, it was probably more like the game outsmarted the hunter and it all was a humbling experience or downright embarrassing if anyone had witnessed the event. Whatever the result, successful or not, one can only hope it was a safe and enjoyable hunt for all who participated and will enrich the experience for the future, especially if shared with others.

Summer months were quiet for wildlife club meetings, however in September I attended a Shelburne Fish and Game meeting in Clyde River. There was a good turnout at this meeting, with emphasis and effort put into getting youth involved with wildlife projects such as duck boxes. There was much discussion on the need for a rifle range in that area of the province, a message that I was requested to convey to the Minister of Natural Resources.

On October 11, I had the opportunity, along with Tony Rodgers, to meet with Minister Olive of Natural Resources. I will say, this was a positive and productive meeting with Minister Olive and his senior staff members. We reviewed our past convention resolutions with the Minister and a good reception and discussion of the resolutions resulted for consideration of implementation in the near future. We also had open communication on rifle ranges, turkey introduction, and

urbanized deer populations. These issues will hopefully see some action in the upcoming year, as the DNR staff were sincere in recognizing the problems of slow progress.

In October I attended the Lunenburg County Wildlife Association annual meeting in Blockhouse. There was a low turnout for this meeting, and they are like many clubs, trying to attract new and active membership. I sat there and wondered to myself, how many hunters and fishermen in the area, realize and/or appreciate how much is done for their enjoyment by so few and dedicated club members. The same can be said for many other hard working clubs. One issue (of many) came to the floor for debate, that I felt sure, if many others had known, the hall may have been packed, standing room only. The issue was baiting of deer, and this is a thorny issue. Concern was raised about the truck loads of carrots and apples that are being placed at frequented deer locations, starting early September, so that by the time deer season opens, the deer are almost domesticated to time and location. I am not going to wade into the pros and cons of this issue here, except to keep in perspective the ethics and public perception of what "hunting" is all about and what is reasonable "fair chase", that is enforceable. As I said, it is a thorny issue.

I guess it would be remiss of me not to have my two cents worth of comment on the just released Auditor's Report on cost of Gun Registry Legislation. Again, I'll not wade into the pro and con debate of the registration, that's all been said before, and myself being a law abiding gun owner, my position is the same one as most all other law abiding gun owners. The cost now, of this registration to taxpayers, does not surprise me at all, and I believe this is just the beginning. The principle to me is like purchasing a vehicle today for a small down payment, and signing on the dotted line, you're on the

continued on page 6

STORAENSO

What paper can do

Stora Enso - Port Hawkesbury Mill
P.O. Box 9500, Port Hawkesbury
Nova Scotia B9A 1A1

Kimberly-Clark Nova Scotia
"Kimberly-Clark and its employees ask
you to Think Twice and Think Safety
First During Hunting Season."
P.O. Box 549D
New Glasgow, Nova Scotia
(902) 752-8461
(902) 752-5404 Fax

Executive Director's Voice



By Tony Rodgers

The words disease and wildlife have notably been grouped together often over the past number of years in news stories and warnings from health officials

West Nile virus and Lyme disease are being spread by some of our smallest wildlife, insects, while Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is running a dangerous course through larger wild animals in western Canada and the United States. So far mule deer, elk and white-tail deer all have been added to the CWD list, a list that according to experts wasn't suppose to happen.

The truth of the matter is that wildlife science is still a fairly new subject and much more is to be learned on the subject.

Supporting that statement is the fact that after the discovery of infected elk with CWD, the experts said that cross species infection would not occur, well it has. Remember, we had also heard from experts that said humans would not get the deadly Mad Cow disease.

That bit of information is just a preamble to a point I wish to make about the recent introduction of a North American Bison or as they are commonly called buffalo, to an illegal game ranch in the Tatamagouche area of the province.

A Nova Scotia man took advantage of a destitute Alberta farmer, someone who was hit hard by the dry weather this past summer and the drought associated with it, and bought approximately 250 of these animals at a bargain basement price.

So at a time in Canadian agricultural history, when governments should be systematically closing these ill advised game farm and ranches because of their associated problems, a Nova Scotian has imported animals with the potential risk of

spreading disease to our wildlife and domestic animals.

My information is that he broke a minimum of three laws from the very beginning of his new venture. I don't feel secure about his first step into Bison ranching. I don't think that he will do the right thing if additional problems should start to exist at his operation.

Nova Scotia has a set of game farming regulations. Something that was forced upon them back in the early 90s, partially by this Federation. He imported the buffalo without a provincial issued game farming permit. He did not have a medical certificate for the bison and he did not ensure that the animals came from a disease free ranch in Alberta. It also appears that his fencing is not up to provincial regulation.

He admitted that one of the reasons he got them so cheap was because the former owner did not have the money to inoculate them against disease. That does not instill confidence in this already tainted operation.

I should back up a bit and say that I don't believe that humans will catch CWD from any species or specifically this Tatamagouche ranch. There is no proof that this could happen. But bovine tuberculosis certainly exists in Alberta Bison and what other undetected problems may exist.

This is a great opportunity for the provincial government to be tough on people who like to change the rules to suit themselves. The same type of strength and leadership is needed here to tell him to send the Bison back and start the paper work first before introducing them to the province, as we had in telling natural gas companies that contracts were not going to be changed to allow provincial highway

ditches to be used as pipeline corridors.

A number of years ago 1,000 red deer, originating in New Zealand, were landed in Halifax for transport to a New Brunswick game farm. Certificates were issued by the Canadian health officials declaring the animals disease free. A veterinarian also flew here with the herd to monitor their health. They all had to be destroyed within weeks of arriving in Canada because of an undetected disease. That begs the question, how often do we have to learn these lessons.

It's time to stop playing God. The world has enough domestic animals. Minister Ernest Fage should convene a panel of experts to review game farming in Nova Scotia, study the lessons learned in western Canada and make the right decision.

The market for exotic games animals just is not large enough to sustain large numbers of farmers. The original reason for these farms was the lucrative Asian medicine market that provided powdered Antler from deer as well and many other species like rhino and elephant. The meat from the deer was a by-product of the industry. With the discovery of Viagra to cure certain male problems, that antler use to help, the demand for antler has decreased in the East. The high cost of gamed farmed deer meat to the consumer has cause many farmers to rethink the business.

The whole profit side of the business was for seed stock. The only people who made money were those who sold seed animals to over zealous, new game farmers fantasizing about quick profit with exotic animals.

In western Canada, the new game farm scam is having your herd condemned by the government because of CWD infection and getting a lottery like payday off the backs of taxpayers. This comes in the form of compensation for the loss of the herd. The price per animal I'm told is substantially higher than if it was sold for meat and antler. Really Mr. Fage this has got to stop.

Please maintain your membership and encourage others to join our federation. *

Tony Rodgers
tony.rodgers@3web.net

Jerry Lake Lodge
P.O. Box 124, Weymouth, NS
(902) 837-5752

BELL
ELECTRIC INC.
140 THORNE AVENUE
DARTMOUTH, N.S. B3B 1Z2
Ph: 468-1539 Fax: 468-4301

**Maritime Paper
Products Limited**
25 Borden Avenue
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3Y9
Ph: 468-5353 Fax: 468-7314

What Did Taxpayers Get For Their Billion Dollars?

By Garry Breitzkreuz, MP -
November 29, 2002

We have seen the headlines in the Globe and Mail saying: "Gun registry to cost around \$1-billion," an editorial in the National Post titled, "Time to ditch the gun registry," and the Edmonton Sun reported, "Firearms centre won't work: City Cop." We hate to say we told you so.

Back in 1995, when Bill C-68, the Firearms Act, was being debated in the House of Commons, twenty Reform MPs took that opportunity to warn the government that it would cost a billion dollars to register all the guns in Canada. Then Justice Minister Allan Rock pooh-poohed our projections saying: "We have provided our estimate of the cost of implementing universal registration over the next five years. We say that it will cost \$85 million.

We encourage the members opposite to examine our estimates. We are confident we will demonstrate that the figures are realistic and accurate." (Hansard Page 9709 - February 16, 1995).

After seven years, all Canadians now know who was right; unfortunately, the Liberals still don't get it. On November 28, 2002, Justice Minister Martin Cauchon was still claiming in the House of Commons that the gun registry is, "...worth proceeding with such a fan-

tastic value as protecting our society."

On Tuesday, December 3, 2002, the Auditor General of Canada, Mrs. Sheila Fraser presented her report to Parliament documenting what she uncovered in her year-long financial audit of the gun registry. She has confirmed that her audit only examined the costs and did, "not examine the efficiency and performance of the program."

The Auditor General's report won't tell you, so I'll try to give you a snapshot of what taxpayers got for their billion-dollar "investment" in the Liberals' gun registration scheme. The most important question now is, will the Liberals waste another billion before they actually admit the complete and utter failure of their gun registry to do anything to reduce the criminal use of firearms?

(1) Taxpayers got a gun registry that concentrates almost exclusively on law-abiding, responsible hunters and sport shooters instead of criminals, gangs, smugglers and terrorists;

(2) taxpayers got a gun registry that has so infuriated the provincial and territorial governments that eight of them have opted out of the administration of the gun registry and the Western provinces refuse to enforce it;

(3) taxpayers got a gun registry that doesn't keep track of the current addresses of the 131,000 persons prohibited from owning firearms and fails to

check if their guns have been removed from their possession;

(4) taxpayers got a new gun registry based on the failed 68-year-old legally-owned handgun registry that has seen a steady increase in firearm homicides committed with handguns from 27% in 1974 to 58% in 2000. Statistics Canada also reported that between 1997 and 2001, 74% of the handguns recovered from the scenes of 143 homicides were *Not* registered;

(5) taxpayers got a gun registry that is attempting to register all the legally-owned long guns in Canada while Statistics Canada tables show that firearms homicides with rifles and shotguns that have never been registered dropped steadily over the last 27 years, from 64% to 31%;

(6) taxpayers got a gun registry that has licenced only 2 million of Canada's 3.3 million gun owners and as of February 27, 2002, had already lost track of 38,000 of them;

(7) taxpayers got a gun registry that has only registered 5 million of the estimated 16.5 million guns in Canada;

(8) taxpayers got a gun registry that has a firearms licence refusal and revocation rate that is one half the results achieved with the 23-year-old Firearms

continued on next page

President's Message...

continued from page 4

road. Then payments come due, licence, registration, fuel, upkeep, repairs, etc. all keep increasing costs. The Gun Registration is not yet on the road, it will need upkeep, information costs, computer upgrades, and heaven forbid, possibly privatization. It was most notable, that the least amount of funding went to police enforcement. The one place that should have been well funded. One can only imagine that if the Gun Registration Legislation had been scrapped back when it should have been, and that one billion

dollars put into police enforcement and crime prevention programs, everyone would be safer in this country. Criminal firearms would not be a problem, they would truly be diminished. Who knows, a spin off effect could have been reduced health care costs due to less violence. Think about it! Tell your MP we can't afford Gun Registration.

In closing for the year, to all the Wildlife Clubs and Associations, you are doing a great service to all wildlife, keep

up the good work, have a successful new year. If you don't belong to a Wildlife Club or The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers And Hunters, consider joining now. Hope you and yours had a safe and successful year, and many more to come. By the way, before you ask, I did not get a deer this year, no excuses, just had a great time. *

*Yours in Wildlife,
Gary Penney, President*

**WILSON'S HOME HARDWARE
(1991) LTD.**
103 Warwick St., Digby, N.S.
"WE'VE GOT YOUR LUMBER"
Ask about our Homecard
Ph: (902) 245-4731
www.digbyhomehardware.ns.ca

HI-LINER
Fishing Gear & Tackle Ltd.

Office: 1-888-737-GEAR • (902) 457-4968
Fax (902) 457-4990
155 Chain Lake Drive, Suite #9,
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3S 1B3
Email: hiliner@ns.sympatico.ca • www.hiliner.com

Bluenose Well Drilling Ltd.
28 Partridge Nest Dr., Mineville, NS B2Z 1K1
Complete Pump Installation
Sales & Service
Ralph Jacobs-President
Office: (902) 829-2474
Pager: (902) 458-2337
Sheet Hbr: (902) 885-2625
Fax: (902) 829-2795
"Serving the Eastern Shore & Mainland N.S."

CFC Backgrounder — Status Of The Canadian Firearms Program

Update On Licensing And Firearm Registration

As of January 1, 2001, anyone possessing firearms in Canada must have a licence or a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate, and owners must have all their firearms registered by January 1, 2003. Over 2.1 million (or 90 percent) of Canada's estimated 2.3 million firearms owners have acted to comply with licensing. So far, about 70% of the 1.8 million licensed firearm owners have participated in registration, with a peak of applications expected just before the deadline. Recently, Canadians have been applying to register their firearms in large numbers.

Options For Firearm Owners

Licensed firearm owners who are not planning on registering some or all of their firearms have other legal options if they act before December 31.

Firearms that are no longer used or wanted, can, for example, be sold or given

to an individual or business that has a licence. Proper deactivation of a firearm by a gunsmith is another option. It is also possible to contact local police and arrange for the disposal of unwanted firearms. While they may differ from city to city, most local police services have disposal procedures in place.

Grace Period For Registration

While the vast majority of firearms owners have already applied to register their firearms, a last minute surge is expected during the month of December. In order to alleviate concerns from the firearms community and other stakeholders regarding the processing of these new applications, the Minister has announced a six-month grace period. Under this grace period, individuals who have applied to register their firearms prior to January 1, 2003 will be afforded protection from criminal liability while they are in the process of bringing themselves into compliance with the Firearms Act.

Protection under the grace period will be afforded until such time as a reg-

istration certificate is issued or refused, up until June 30, 2003.

Any firearm owners who have failed to submit their registration application by the deadline will not be protected by the grace period. Steps have been taken to assist firearm owners submit their application by the registration deadline.

Amnesty For Businesses With Firearms On Consignment

An amnesty has also been announced for businesses that are holding unregistered firearms for consignment sales. Businesses will have until December 31, 2003 to sell the firearms to a properly licensed individual or business, or to otherwise dispose of them. Many of these firearms have been brought to the businesses from an unlicensed individual who is trying to dispose of the firearm. Businesses will not be able to take in any additional unregistered firearms after December 31, 2002. This amnesty will merely give them time to divest themselves of the firearms already in their inventories.

continued on page 14

What Did Taxpayers...

continued from previous page

Acquisition Certificate program;

(9) taxpayers got a gun registry that issued 5 million registration certificates that don't even have the gun owners' name on them. Eighteen million vehicle registrations have the owners' names;

(10) taxpayers got a gun registry with 3.2 million registration certificates with blank and unknown entries - three-quarters of a million with no serial numbers;

(11) taxpayers got a gun registry that admits to issuing 15,381 firearms licences to persons with no proof of having passed a firearms safety course;

(12) taxpayers got a registry

that admits to issuing 26,800 duplicate Firearms Registration Certificates, issuing 832 duplicate firearms licences and issuing 259 firearms licences with the wrong photograph;

(13) taxpayers got a gun registry that prohibited more than 568,000 legally owned and registered firearms, but left police without the resources necessary to combat the criminal use of illegally-owned firearms in our major cities;

(14) taxpayers got a gun registry that has increased red tape and the regulatory cost of buying a hunting rifle to \$279.00 which in turn has driven hundreds of thousands of hunters out of their sport and cost our economy many millions;

(15) taxpayers got a gun registry that hands out boxes of ammunition to Aboriginal people who do *Not* hold a valid firearms licence; and finally,

(16) taxpayers got a gun registry that will never do what the government promised - namely, tell police where the guns are.

In closing, I would like to challenge taxpayers to ask themselves the next question: Where would they have liked this wasted billion dollars to have been spent - health care, defence, more police on the street, etc? Here are a couple of examples. According to the Solicitor General of Ontario, we could have put more than 10,000 police officers on our streets and highways.

A billion dollars would have bought, installed and operated 238 MRIs for a year. How much pain, suffering and worry would have been alleviated and how many lives would have been saved? What a sad, sad choice the Liberal MPs and our government have made for Canadians.*

Garry Breitkreuz is the Member of Parliament for Yorkton-Melville, Saskatchewan, and the Official Opposition Critic for Firearms and Property Rights.

For more information you can visit Garry's website at: www.garrybreitkreuz.com

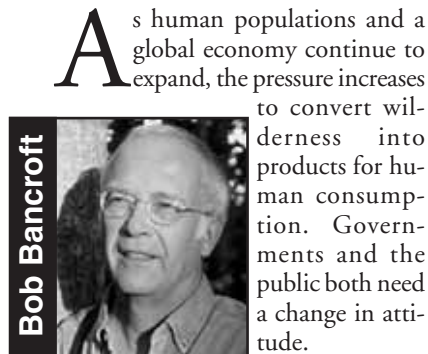


Peter J. Kelly
Mayor
Halifax Regional Municipality
Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
Tel: 490-4010 Fax: 490-4012
E-mail: kellyp@region.halifax.ns.ca

GOW'S HARDWARE LTD.
"Ask about our Home Card."
Eastside Plaza, 450 LaHave St.
Bridgewater, N.S.
pgow@gowshomehardware.ns.ca
P.H. (902) 543-7121

Commodities, Or Communities?

By Bob Bancroft



Bob Bancroft

As human populations and a global economy continue to expand, the pressure increases to convert wilderness into products for human consumption. Governments and the public both need a change in attitude.

The "R" word in government is *Resource*. Here nature is considered as something that provides potential commodities. The mind-set is that "under-utilized" natural resources are wasted, much like unspent government budgets. Public woodlands are accessed - volumes of wood fibre even over-committed - through the political process. Departments like mining, forestry and agriculture exist to promote, facilitate and oversee resource extraction.

Governments tend to ignore one reality. The earth that sustains humans also constitutes habitats - food, water and shelter resources - for communities of wild plants and animals. Even when they tackle endangered species legislation, federal and provincial governments across Canada deal ineffectively with the real issue by failing to protect adequate amounts of land-based, freshwater and ocean habitats - what's really necessary to sustain "threatened" plant and animal populations.

Wildlife Habitat and Watercourse Protection guidelines introduced to Nova Scotians in 1989 became regulations on January 14, 2002. Why did it take 12 years to make clearcuts to the water's edge illegal in Nova Scotia? Land use legislation is a sensitive issue, particularly in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, where most acreage is privately owned. Folks usually don't like to be told what to do on their own land. Larger portions

of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador consist of "public land" controlled by governments. Most "provincially-controlled" forest lands in eastern provinces are under lease agreements with forest industries and subject to unresolved Mi'kmaq land claims. Many eastern residents have new interest in the fate of "public" lands.

Blaming governments for a 12 year delay in legislating some forest cutting rules is too easy. I'd rather draw your attention to the average Atlantic Canadian's vague understanding about the natural world. For example, the ecological effects of large clearcuts have been studied by scientists, but are poorly understood by the public. Folks just sense that they're unsightly and ecologically unsound. It is not taught. How can students in Atlantic Canada spend 12 years of their lives in an education system where, unless teachers take "extra" time, outdoor awareness is forgotten? Many biology students at universities are hard-pressed to differentiate balsam fir from spruce trees. It's not "in" for the latest crop of young adults to frequent woods anyway, unless it's blasting through swamps (aka "aquatic habitats") on ATVs or 4x4s.

Poor public understanding, combined with government window-dressing, leaves many landowners with little or no ecological appreciation for basic cutting rules in their woodland. The habitat damage tolerated or inflicted upon privately-owned properties in the last decade leads me to think that many: (1) fail to understand the environmental havoc they wreak with large scale clearcuts, or (2) do not care, or (3) are greedy and shortsighted. Regrettably, a similar statement about the land abuse inflicted by farmers and farming (that is also facilitated by governments) can be made as well. There are notable and exceptional woodlot owners and farmers who operate with ecological sensitivity, but they are few and far between. Abuse is rampant in the back 40.

Nature in many forms - forest habitats, fresh water and ocean fisheries - is being gobbled up and transformed into commodities by latest technologies. Land clearing, land abuse and river channelization result in wide, dry summer riverbeds that flush like toilets, bloated with polluted water after acidic rainfall. Naive eastern Canadians still build on flood plains, then demand taxpayer compensation after being flooded out. Downstream, company trawlers continue to scour (clearcut) ocean bottom habitats as fisheries and livelihoods disappear.

Tax dollars these days are directed towards health and education, with diminishing resources for resource departments. "Watchdog" environment departments are underdog government bottom-feeders, even after Walkerton. That means they are underfunded, understaffed, and frequently unable to enforce new environmental legislation once the dust settles after resounding political announcements. Water quality is a good example. We continually mistreat and ignore water quality issues. To quote Dr. David Schindler, a freshwater ecologist, "It's a no brainer. Stupid municipalities now make rules and approve developments as though no one else lives on the river." In Nova Scotia, drought has farmers and the government planning as if rivers exist solely for irrigation purposes. They show little or no regard for fish habitat, nor any interest in more efficient (and costly) watering technologies. Schindler notes that most of the science needed to conserve water quality from human development or agricultural waste has been done, but is being ignored.

Most of the science proving the case for more careful forestry and farming has already been done as well. It's also being

Wood-Mizer® Canada East
 "From Forest To Final Form"
 Lew Dingwall
 Atlantic Canada Sales/Service
 Box 173, 2600 #1 Hwy., Aylesford, NS B0P 1C0
 Toll Free 1-877-866-0667
 Manufacturer of
 Wood-Processing Equipment

TIDES END LODGE
 "Where the Tide Ends, Excellent Hunting Begins"
SPORTING CLAYS
 Members and Non Members Welcome
OPEN YEAR ROUND
 427 Milford Road,
 Carrols Corner, NS
 Canada B0N 1Y0
 tidesend@ns.sympatico.ca
 Tel: (902) 758-2527
 Fax: (902) 758-3742

Terra Nova
WOODLANDS INC.
 I Want Your Woodlot
 and or Stumpage
 Interested in Small & Large Acreage
 standing Softwood & Hardwood lots
 For information call: **Raymond Martel**
 Ph: 857-2220 Cell: 221-LOGS (5647)

ignored by politicians, which leaves industry, developers and landowners the opportunity to act accordingly. Hunting, trapping and fishing regulations exist to "protect" species. But as a woodlot owner or farmer you can destroy the habitat that "protected" moose, beaver or trout depend upon for survival and sometimes get government subsidies to pay for it! Alternate ways to produce forest products, farm crops and a profit do exist, but are not promoted by governments in any effective manner through education or regulation.

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, the best defence of democracy is a well-informed citizenry. Given reasonable amounts of information combined with options from which to choose, I think many folks are capable of stepping beyond greed or out of single purpose mind-sets to make environmentally wise decisions. Our long term survival depends on the natural world. It's time we stopped trouncing it. As long as our education system is woefully negligent in this regard, the door stays wide open to land abusers, intentional or not, who have only to contend with wimpy regulations.

So - what could we be doing? More outdoor education, increased landowner/citizen interest and responsibility, environmental regulations with some bite, and more government programs to restore some of nature that's been destroyed would be a good start.

Education and outdoor awareness is a life-long process with many options currently available for schools and adult learners. The most important element for kids is to get them outside, comfortable and learning. There are lots of written and on-line resources for young folks and

adults. Try www.cwf-fcf.org to see what one privately-funded conservation group is doing. Model forests are a fine exploration of forestry thinking. Books like "Out Roddie's Way" (Girvan Harrison, 2000, Earthwood Editions) make learning forestry fun. Provincial governments have worthwhile home study courses and other outdoor-oriented resources to offer. Most libraries and booksellers have well-stocked nature sections.

As citizens, land-users and landowners we need to clean up our own act. We're awash in packaging, throwaways, and fixated on gas-guzzlers to project an image. "Reduce" should not be relegated to Canadian counterculture. Among the things that need to be done:

It's time to use fencing to keep heavy farm animals off riverbanks. Technology exists to provide water without putting livestock on riverbanks or in the river. Proper manure storage may be costly, but it's as necessary as sensible field applications. Last winter (in mid-January) I watched manure being applied over a snow-laden field beside the Gaspereau River in the Annapolis Valley. That is an offence to the life in the river.

Waste from public sewage treatment, and our untreated raw sewage is also overpowering many Atlantic streams, rivers and harbours. New technologies exist to handle this effluent and produce useful products - instead of a stinking stream or harbour.

Clearcutting is a terribly overused forestry technique that depletes soil nutrients, and fosters the growth of short-lived, pioneer forests. Alternatives to large-scale clearcuts are very viable in Atlantic Canada. Wildlife habitats would be better served as soon as more folks switch! Old trees and dead trees should be saved for their wildlife and nutrient values. Other living things have a right to live here too!

If governments can regulate that existing trees be left along waterways, what about waterways denuded of trees? They should be replanted with deep-rooted hardwoods and softwoods like hemlock to stabilize their banks.

Governments should be banning large scale clearcuts, so profit-taking privateers have to use more environmentally-sound extraction methods.

Housing should be removed from floodplains. It's more costly to leave them. Then storm sewers that empty directly into streams could be redirected onto floodplains. Discharge water would soak in and gradually reach the waterway. Floodplains could function again to store high water and control flooding.

Municipal governments in each drainage area (or watershed) should work together with new zoning parameters. They could also refrain from over-ruling their own planners' advice with councillor self-interest, patronage and politics.

Agricultural drain tiles from flood plains should be plugged. They only serve to exacerbate the droughts. A general lack of summer water, not too much, has become a major crop problem.

Government should undertake a long-term policy to restore normal river meanders and functions over partially-forested floodplains. Meanders slow the river, decrease its slope, and protect more property in the long run. Governments should also cease subsidizing channelization, and gradually put an end to straight-jacketing rivers with boulder rip-raps on bends. Exceptions, such as impending wash-outs on existing highways, would have to be made.

The 20 and 30 metre forested zones now regulated along waterways in some eastern provinces are an excellent start. Incorporating other ecologically-sensible rules and developing a better understanding about the natural world would result in more careful removal of the commodities from nature's communities. Long term thinking about the conservation of our forests and waterways is the key to a healthy future! *

*Bob Bancroft is a Biologist and Outdoor Writer.
Reprinted with permission from Eastern Wood & Waters magazine.*

43035E



Nova Trophy
Awards - Engraving
Embroidered Clothing

6104 ALMON STREET PH: 902-455-0056
HALIFAX, N.S. FAX: 902-455-3553



CORKUM'S K&A
PIPE AND CULVERTS
Specializing in:
Galvanized Steel Culverts
and Heavy Duty Plastic Culverts
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
538-8066
or 538-8526 Fax: 538-7877 1-800-873-3598
272 Windermere Road, Berwick N.S.

48019A

Veinotte's Chainsaw Sales & Service (1996) Ltd.

RR #2 Bridgewater
Nova Scotia
B4V 2W1



Ph. (902) 543-4502

48020A



I.M.P. GROUP LIMITED

Bill Goodwin
Branch Manager
Yarmouth Marine Division

Bus: (902) 742-3042 Res: (902) 769-3697
(902) 742-9283 44 Hawthorn Street
Fax: (902) 742-0982 Yarmouth, NS B5A 1M7

48037E

What Are Your Hunting Rights? - Some Answers

By Ed Coleman

When he checked out some of his favorite hunting ground recently, Chipman Corner waterfowler



Ed Coleman

“I didn’t think anyone could stop you from hunting in tidal areas.”

Like me, Bob Williams always thought that on the seashore the high water mark defined the area where no one could stop you from legally hunting. However, when Bob checked with Natural Resources enforcement officers, he was told that they used the mean high water mark (the middle distance between high and low tide) to determine where someone could hunt. In other words,

the old, traditional idea that the high water mark is a determining factor in hunting rights is wrong; and this apparently applies to tidal waters and to the high water mark on fresh water streams.

Before Bob Williams called I was corresponding with Randall Balcome of the Kentville law firm of Waterbury Newton on hunting rights; specifically on the rights hunters have in regards to the high water mark on fresh and tidal waters. Following is Mr. Balcome’s findings on hunting rights and the high water mark. As you will discover as you read on, this is a complicated issue.

“The basic answer,” Mr. Balcome writes, “is that the high water mark of a stream is *Not* a public thoroughfare. In fact, in the case of a “non tidal” stream (or the non-tidpart of a stream) the owner owns right up to the water *And* the water bed. This principle also applies to lakes and ponds. If the brook or stream is on the boundary of two properties then the respective owners’ property lines technically end at a line in the middle of the bottom of the stream.

“It follows from this that there is no advantage to a hunter walking along the side of a non-tidal stream or brook. In this situation he/she would still require the consent of the owner of the property, and if there is no consent then the owner could order them off the property.

“One possible exception to this is where the hunter actually owns property along the same brook/stream in question. All owners along a particular stream have rights (referred to as riparian rights) not to have the flow, quality, direction etc. of that stream changed or interfered with by another owner. These “riparian” rights also include a right of access to use the stream in question.

“However, the extent of these “access” rights of riparian owners is not absolutely clear. Whether or not this right would include a right to walk along the stream to hunt is possible, but in my view somewhat doubtful since the right of access of a riparian owner is in regard to use of the water and not generally for other purposes (such as hunting).

Gotta Getta Grohmann!

Bringing you Dependable, Classic, Handmade Knives for Over 40 Years

#R360-1 Grohmann Folder

#RISS Original Award Design Belt Knife with Sharpening Steel

Free Factory Tours Available!

- New Water Buffalo Horn knives
- Award Winning D.H. Russell Belt Knives
- New Scrimshawed Staghorn Knives

For a FREE Info Kit or Dealer List :
1-888-7-KNIVES
www.grohmannknives.com

WORLD'S BEST-SELLER JUST GOT BETTER!

NEW! SPORTSMAN 500 H.O.

- World's best-selling automatic ATV just got better
- New Polaris 500 High Output engine, 20% more power, engine braking
- Exclusive independent long-travel (9.5") rear suspension
- On-Demand true 4-wheel drive with on/off thumb switch
- Industry-leading 11" of ground clearance

Bro's Cycle
West Hants Industrial Park
P.O. Box 537, Windsor, N.S. B0N 2T0
Phone/Fax: (902) 798-8145

MacLeod's Farm Machinery Ltd.
R.R.#5, Truro, N.S. B2H 5B3
Phone: (902) 662-2516
#4 Hwy, Exit 21, Alma
Phone: (902) 396-4125

POLARIS
The Way Out.

ATVs can be hazardous to operate. Polaris adult models are for riders ages 16 and older. Polaris youth models are for riders age 6 to 15. Always wear a helmet and be sure to take a training course. For safety and training information, see your Polaris dealer or call 1-800-342-3764. ©2000 Polaris Sales Inc.

“The situation is complicated further by the fact that in the case of tidal rivers (or the tidal portion of a stream/river) or seas, the owner of property only owns to the average/mean high water mark, and the sea bed or tidal river bed from that average high water mark is owned by the Crown. Keep in mind also that it is possible, but rare, that the Crown can sell this right to a private individual/corporation.

“So if I am walking along a tidal portion of the Cornwallis River, within the high water mark, I am walking on Crown land. If I am walking along a non tidal portion of the Cornwallis I am walking on the land of the property

owner, whether it is within the high water mark or not.

“The importance of this distinction is that if a hunter is walking along a tidal portion of a river, within the high water mark, the adjoining owner cannot tell them to leave (assuming they are not breaking another law and the Crown hasn’t told them to get off).

“All of the above assumes that the hunter is just taking a walk. A whole bunch of other potential legal issues arise once they discharge a rifle. For example, the owner of property not only owns the land and all fixtures attached to the land, but also the air space above the land (to the extent that is necessary for the enjoy-

ment of the property). A bullet traveling at eye level is certainly within this space, and consequently a bullet traveling in this space without the consent of the owner is a trespass. Even if, for example, you have the consent of owner X, and the rifle is discharged on X’s land, it is still a trespass if the bullet also travels over Y’s land or anyone else’s property who has not given their permission.

“Another potential problem is the law of “nuisance.” The law of “nuisance” provides that a person cannot use property in such a way as to interfere with the enjoyment of an adjoining landowner’s property. Noise created by the continuing discharge of a rifle may constitute such a “nuisance,” and therefore even if a hunter has the consent of all landowners over which he or his bullets may travel, he may still run afoul of some other landowners who can’t tolerate the noise of gunfire.

“There is also some interesting statutory law that impacts on this issue. For example, section 38 of the Wildlife Act prohibits anyone from interfering “with the lawful hunting or fishing of wildlife by another person.” However, and somewhat incongruously, subsection 38 (4) provides that this section does not authorize a person, who is lawfully hunting, to trespass on privately owned land, so the bottom line is that this section does not alter the above mentioned law.

“The Protection of Property Act states that someone lawfully hunting on “forest land” cannot be prosecuted under that legislation, which leaves owners of “forest land” with only a civil lawsuit for trespass against a trespassing hunter. “Forest land” is defined in that legislation as “a wooded area, forest stand, tract covered by underbrush, barren ground, marsh” etc., along with some special exceptions (such as a tree plantation area or a Christmas tree management area).

“Take note that section 177 of the Criminal Code makes it a criminal offence to “loiter or prowl” between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the property of another person “near a dwelling house” on that property.

“As you can imagine, there are other relevant statutory provisions, but the above are the important ones.” *

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



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.

NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources

TODAY'S RESOURCES, TOMORROW'S LEGACY

Random Casts

By Don MacLean

Waldo's 5 Cent Fly

The trout was rising at the far end of the pool as I eased into the water. I flicked the line back only to be met with a strong pull from the big spruce tree on the river bank. Hooked! One of my favourite stories deals with a long time salmon guide who was guiding a young American lady on the Margaree. New to salmon fishing her fly was spending more time in the trees than on the water. Salmon flies were scarce back then, and expensive, so her guide dutifully climbed up to retrieve her fly. After the fourth trip the guide is reported to have said "Listen Miss. You don't need a guide, you need a monkey." Not having a monkey I tightened up until, with a snap, my line rained down, minus the fly. No matter, I had a fly box full of them so I turned back to the trout.

Nobody likes to lose flies but if you tie your own you are only out a few cents for materials and some of your time. The late Waldo Hendsbee, who fished the St. Mary's and New Harbour River had a pattern that he called his 5 cent fly. It was a simple but effective pattern that you didn't mind los-

ing. Winter is a great time to tie up some flies for next year. For those of you who don't tie, now is a great time to start. I believe that anyone can learn to tie effective flies. Technique can be learned from courses offered by local recreation departments, books, videos or from a friend. The tools and equipment required are really quite simple and relatively inexpensive. Here are a few things you need to get started:

Tools -A vice, bobbin, scissors and hackle pliers, along with some head cement, are all you need to start tying. Like all tools you get what you pay for but don't think you have to spend \$200 for a vice. A \$25.00 model will get you started and, if you only tie a couple of dozen flies a year, may be all you ever need.

Hooks -The backbone of any fly is the hook and there are a wide assortment available. Each has a specific purpose, long shank hooks for streamers, heavy wire for wets, lighter wire for dries. The beginner can't go wrong with a classic like Mustad # 94840, the standard dry fly hook, as an all around hook.

Thread and Body Materials -Fly tying thread is made from silk or nylon in sizes 1/0 to 8/0. A good all-round choice is 6/0 uni-

thread in black. Floss, yarn, chenille and dubbing are all used to build fly bodies. Tinsel is the shiny material used for butts and ribs on flies. It is available in silver, gold and copper.

Wing Material - Duck, turkey and goose feathers or quills are traditionally used for wing material on classic dries and wets. Hair is also used as wings for streamers and bucktails. Material such as goat, calf, deer and squirrel tail, are all readily available.

So get busy gathering some material and equipment and start tying your own 5 cent flies. *

Waldo's 5 Cent Fly

Thread: Black

Tail: Red Floss-sparse

Butt: Red Floss

Body: Black Floss

Hackle: Brown, tied as a beard, sparse

Wing: Black Squirrel, sparse

Head: Black

Tight Lines

©2002 Don MacLean

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

Ducks Unlimited Canada



We take conserving wetlands seriously. You can too. You can help us save them. Join us today!

Ducks Unlimited Canada conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

Along Route 6 (near the NB - NS border) the 4400-acre Amherst Marsh's artesian well spouts crystal clean drinking water. Explore this wetland and see numerous migrating birds and other wildlife. Visit the Amherst Marsh, a Nova Scotia publicly owned and DUC managed wetland.

Contact: Ducks Unlimited Canada - Amherst (902) 667-8726 or visit www.ducks.ca.



431039A

Oland Breweries

Nova Scotia's Premier Ale

Brewers Since 1867

43034L

Ice Fishing Opportunities In Nova Scotia For 2003

By Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Inland Fisheries Division Staff

For many Nova Scotia anglers the end of their fishing season is often marked by the tumbling of autumn's last golden leaf or the dampness of the first snow fall. Reluctantly, inventory is taken on tackle boxes and favourite rods and reels are placed in the corner or on a shelf in anticipation of next season's opening day. Some anglers pass the winter tying flies for next season and counting the days until the opening of fishing season in April. However, winter can offer some excellent angling opportunities for both experienced fishermen or just the beginner. Nova Scotia anglers can look forward to a wide variety of fishing opportunities for a number of species as the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries responds to growing interest in the province's winter sport fishery. For those who love the outdoors, ice fishing is an ideal winter sport.

Ice fishing, although challenging, can be very rewarding. The most important step in catching fish is finding them. Most anglers are guilty of drilling one or two holes and only fishing there for the entire day. If you are not over fish, everything else you do seldom matters. You must be mobile on the ice to locate fish. Weather

conditions above the ice affect aquatic conditions under the ice. Fish move in and out of cover and up and down drop offs as conditions change. To be successful you must move as well.

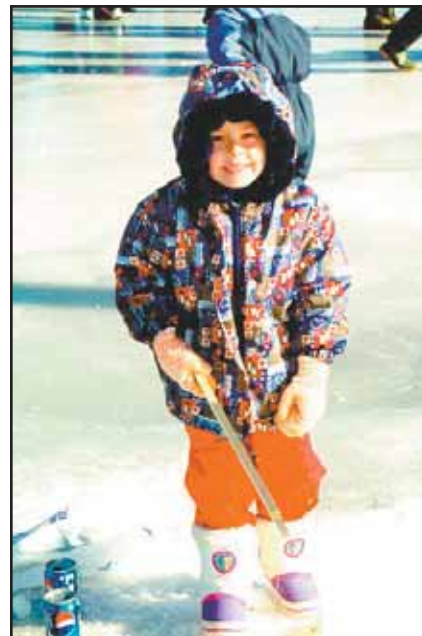


Varying your presentation to match current conditions is also important. Water under the ice tends to be clearest in winter. In these conditions try a horizontal presentation. To achieve this a jig or a lure needs to have the eye coming out of the middle of your bait. Minnows seldom dart up and down, vertical in the water column. During low visibility days or in deeper water where light penetration is low, try an aggressive vertical presentation.

The most important aspect of ice fishing is safety. The Red Cross recommends a minimum of 15cm(6") of clear ice for one person walking or standing. Always check the ice thickness before venturing on to lakes and be mindful that springs and flowing water can seriously

weaken ice. Staying warm, and dry, is also important. You cannot enjoy ice fishing if you are shivering and uncomfortable. Wear warm, insulated boots and good head protection. If you can keep your head and feet warm the rest of your body will stay warmer longer as well.

The winter fishery offers anglers nu-



merous opportunities to fish in Nova Scotia in 2003. The seasons were developed in consultation with the Department's Recreational Fishery Advisory Councils, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Inland Fisheries Division. Chain pickerel anglers will be able to enjoy fishing opportunities for this species throughout the province. In Digby County the Meteghan River, in-

continued on next page

Eddie's Small Engine Repair
 P.O. Box 42,
 North East Margaree, NS B0E 2H0
OPEN YEAR ROUND
 Ph: (902) 248-2283

HONEY GARLIC

Buffet

- * 100 Items All You Can Eat
- * World Class Market-Style International Cuisine
- * Special Children's Prices
- * Fully Licensed
- * Large Group, Function & Catering Most Welcome
- * Open 11:30 - 9:30 Weekdays, 11:30 - 10 Sat. & Sun.

201 Chain Lake Drive, Halifax, NS B3S 1C8
 Reservations
450-1826

HAROLD'S SERVICE CENTRE
 RR#1 HUBBARDS
857-9604

 **Citadel Drywall & Acoustical Ltd.**
 192 Joseph Zatzman Drive, Unit 10,
 Dartmouth, NS B3B 1N4
 Ph: 461-2110 Fax: 461-2686

CRANTON COTTAGES
 Margaree Centre, Cape Breton, NS
 Fishing, Hiking & Walking Trail
 To The Margaree River
"OPEN ALL YEAR" Ph/Fax: 1-902-248-2985
www.margaree.capebretonisland.com/crantoncottages

 **APPLE Auto Glass**
We Re-Upholster Motorcycle A.T.V. and Snowmobile seats
 41 "A" Ilesley Ave | 3200 Kempt Rd.
 Dartmouth, N.S. | Halifax, N.S.
 Ph: 468-8201 | Ph: 455-0494



cluding all lakes and tributaries is open from January 1 until March 31. The Annis River and Kiack Brook, in Yarmouth County, including all lakes and tributaries are also open from January 1 until March 31. Other lakes open for chain pickerel include Lewis Lake, Queens County; Walls Lake, The Ponds in Port LaTour and Bakers Flats on Cape Sable Island, Shelburne County and Fish Lake, Halifax County. Lily Lake (Cogamun Pond) Hants County, Shortts Lake Colchester County; Black Lake and West Branch Lake, Pictou County will also be open this winter. All pickerel lakes are open from January 1 until March 31. The

bag limit for chain pickerel is 25 fish.

Angling for white and yellow perch will be permitted from January 1 until March 31 on Angevine (Dewars Lake) Cumberland County and Woodward Sanford Lake, Hants County. Springfield Lake in Annapolis County will also be open this winter for white and

yellow perch. The bag limits for each of these species is 25 fish.

Rainbow trout anglers in the province continue to enjoy fishing opportunities for this species. The Bras d'Or Lakes are open for winter angling of rainbow trout from January 1 until March 31. The bag limit is two fish per day. Four areas of the Bras d'Or Lakes are closed to angling to protect brook trout and Atlantic salmon: above the Baddeck River Bridge on Highway 105 (Including Cains Pond), inside the East Bay sandbar, above Crowdis Bridge in River Denys Basin, and above Black Rivert Bridge in

Dundee.

Several other lakes will reopen this winter for rainbows: Cameron and Gillis Lake, Antigonish County, Albro Lake, Halifax County, Gairloch Lake, Pictou County, Goose Harbour lake, Guysborough County, Sucker Lake, Lunenburg County, Levers Lake and #20 Dam, Cape Breton County and Hidden Hills Lake, Queens County. The seasons on these lakes run from January 1 until March 31. Bag limit is two fish per day. Meadow Pond, Hants County will also be open for rainbow trout this winter. The season on the Pond runs from January 1 until February 28. The bag limit is 2 fish per day.

The winter ice fishing seasons increase angling opportunities and offer a unique experience for hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts. Give ice fishing a try! *

*For further information please contact:
Inland Fisheries Division, Pictou,
Agriculture and Fisheries,
902-485-5056.
E-mail: inland@gov.ns.ca
Website: www.gov.ns.ca/nsafl_sportfishing*

CFC Background...
continued from page 7

End Of Transfer Fee Waiver

Last year, the \$25 fee to transfer and register a firearm to a new owner was waived until December 31, 2002. This was done in consultation with businesses and the Minister's User Group on Firearms, to allow more time to adjust to the new system. The transfer fee will be reinstated as planned on January 1, 2003, coinciding with the registration deadline. As of that date, the cost of transferring a firearm will be \$25 per firearm.

Extension Of Amnesty For Prohibited Handguns

1. Prohibited Handguns:

The current amnesty allowing individuals and businesses to dispose of certain prohibited handguns that they are not eligible to possess has been extended until December 31, 2003. The affected handguns include those with a barrel length of less than 105 mm, and handguns that discharge 25 or 32 calibre ammunition, except for a few specific guns used in International Shooting Union competitions. Individuals can keep a pro-

hibited handgun only if both they and the handguns have grandfathered status. For the handgun to be grandfathered, an application to register it in Canada must have been submitted by February 14, 1995. For individuals to be grandfathered, they must have held the registration certificate for at least one such handgun on February 14, 1995, and have continuously had one registered in their name since December 1, 1998.

Under the terms of the amnesty, individuals in unlawful possession of a prohibited handgun must dispose of it by:

- deactivating the handgun so that it no longer is a firearm; or,
- replacing the short barrel with one longer than 105 mm so that the handgun becomes a restricted firearm, and turning in the prohibited barrel to a police officer or a firearms officer; or,
- exporting the handgun in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Contact the Export Controls Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at (613) 996-2387 or the Registrar at (613) 998-6366

for more information; or,

- selling or giving the handgun to a business (including a museum) licensed under subsection 11(2) of the Firearms Act to possess such a handgun, or
- to a Public Service Agency; or,
- turning in the handgun to a Police Officer or a Firearms Officer for destruction or disposal.

A non-grandfathered individual who owns a grandfathered handgun also has the option of selling or giving the handgun to a grandfathered individual who is licensed to acquire such a handgun. Some of the options are slightly different for businesses.

Bill C-10 contains amendments to the Firearms Act that will change the requirements for grandfathered status for both individuals and firearms.

The Bill would change the cut-off date by which an individual must have held a registration certificate for a prohibited handgun in order to be grandfathered. Under this proposal, a firearm registered by an individual by December 1, 1998 would be "grandfathered". *

GPS and Computer

By Ken Kane

Hand held GPS units (starting a few years ago) all have the capability to be connected to computers. In some cases the user *must* be able to connect to a computer to realize all the capabilities. After connecting the GPS and computer together via a data cable the two devices can then exchange information. This information is in different forms and is used for different activities. The user, depending upon the software program, usually does not see this information, nor are they concerned what the data form is in, as long as the information is transferred successfully between the units.



One of the prime reasons for connecting to a computer is to save the data that has been recorded by the GPS. This may be in the form of Waypoints (aka Landmarks), which can include Position, Date/Time, Height and Notes. It could also be a Track that the GPS has made while the user has been moving. Routes can also be downloaded to the computer after returning from the field. All of these pieces of information can be saved on the computer and then used in different ways. GPS units do not have endless memory, some have more than others, but they will eventually fill up. With the memory full you must either Delete the information in the GPS, or using a computer you can Save it. Once this information is Saved it can be re-loaded in to the computer at a future time. Saved Waypoints etc. can be used in different ways, but let us look first at re-loading .

Most GPS units will save up to 500 Waypoints and maybe as high as 20 Routes. If you had gone fishing on a favorite lake and had recorded 20 different "hot spots", this can be handled easily by the GPS. The next day you went to a

different lake and recorded 15 more "hot spots". Still this would be no problem for the GPS. Unless you had taken the time to name each when making these Waypoints, they probably look like this - LMK001 - - LMK002 ((LMK035. If you decide to go back to the first lake, or to record more and more Waypoints it can become very confusing and really makes for a long list of Waypoints to scroll through on the GPS to find the one you want. Even if you had named each one specifically, i.e. Fish 1 or Hole 3, it still is very time consuming to sift through all of these to find the specific place that you want to GOTO. There is an easy way to take control of all these Waypoints. Without talking about specific software, just yet, this is generally what you can do.

Waypoints, Tracks and Routes can be downloaded to the computer and Saved in individual files. If you had gone to Trout Lake on the first day, download the first 20 positions to the computer and the file could then be named TroutLake.wpt. (.wpt is used in *Oziexplorer*, more later). The next 15 Waypoints could be saved to whatever file name is appropriate for that lake. Once all these Waypoints have been Saved they can be deleted from the GPS until needed again. If you decide in the future to return to Trout Lake it is simply a matter of calling up the TroutLake.wpt file and reloading them in to the GPS. But that's not all, it gets better. Waypoints on file can be Edited to change the information or to add to it. LMK001 can be changed to Hole 1 with a note attached that reads "fish deep" or "fish in morning". The Waypoint Symbol Icon) can also be changed to suit the user's preference. The Icons available in most units will be at least 20, not all of them are fishing type Icons, but some of them will be. If you had originally kept your GPS on while trolling across Trout Lake the Track could be saved and made in to a Route and then reloaded in to the GPS. You could then troll the lake again on exactly the same course. But it gets better yet. Now we can talk about GPS and mapping.



There two different mapping methods associated with GPS units. The first, and most expensive method is with GPS' that have extra memory built in that is used to store maps. Some units will come with a certain area of the world already loaded – i.e. North America. For other units you must buy separately a CD Rom that has the area that you wish to use. This type of unit will have all the usual GPS features, but will not be map capable unless you buy (not necessarily cheap) a CD Rom from the same GPS manufacturer. These types of GPS units excel in their capability to follow roads, highways, rivers, lakes or whatever is on the loaded map. For those units that have city streets you can plan a Route into the GPS and it will follow along as you are traveling. Should you miss a turn it will re-calculate a new Route for you. One mapping method used with GPS is when the map is loaded into the computer instead of the GPS. Maps are downloaded into the computer from different sources. A scanner can be used to load topographical (or whatever) maps of the users choice. In Nova Scotia the book of topographical maps that can be bought in bookstores is very useful, and is very acceptable for this method. Scanning in the usual topographical maps, because of their large physical size, is not really practical. The smaller maps fit the scanner and have excellent quality when used with the various GPS mapping software. Maps can be bought and downloaded from the

continued on next page

Windsor Wear

P.O. Box 970,
Windsor, NS B0N 2T0

Phone: (902) 798-0379

BAY ROAD ELECTRICAL LTD.

3245 St. Margaret's Bay Rd.,
Timberlea, NS B3T 1J1

TEL: (902) 876-2875

SR Ryder Investigations

30 Aurora Avenue
Halifax, NS

477-6189

Internet or on CD from various companies. Whatever method is used to input maps to the computer they must all be "calibrated" so that the GPS and computer agree on Latitude and Longitude for any given position on the map. For those that have laptop computers they can input GPS data to their computer while mobile and "see in real time" their current position on the map. Of course those travelers with mapping type GPS units can do this as well, but not as well as on a 14" or 15" laptop screen. In the field of GPS mapping there are many variables depending upon the type of GPS, maps used and different types of software. But whatever method is used, the mapping capability of GPS adds a whole new level to the adventure.

GPS software generally falls in four or five categories. The most basic type (i.e. *VisualGPS*) will show satellite signal strength, position, satellites used, a survey screen and NMEA sentences (NMEA sentences show GPS output, for specifics on these sentences, look up NMEA on the Internet). The next step up is the software that allows the user to transfer data (Waypoints etc.) to and from the computer. This data can be Saved, Edited and re-loaded back to the GPS. *GarTrip*, *GPSUtility* and *EasyGPS* are good examples of this type, with *EasyGPS* also having the capability to download position data right in to the GPS (via file). The next level of software can do the Saving/Editing as well as having the ability to work with maps. Imported maps (once calibrated by the software) are then used

to show Waypoints downloaded from a GPS or to make Waypoints and then load them in to a GPS. Of course Routes can also be downloaded/made and then depicted on the map. If you had the appropriate map you could show all of those fishing hot spots on the lake. Using a Route maker then would permit the operator to make a fishing Route and have it ready for the next trip to that lake. *OziExplorer* and *Trackmaker* are excellent examples of mapping type software. *OziExplorer* now has 3D mapping software for use with topographical maps. Some companies sell maps on CD-ROM for their GPS units. These CD-ROMs are not cheap, and sometimes the Canadian content is not the greatest. For travelers there are products such as *Microsoft's "Streets and Trips"*. This type of software is useful for trip planning. Routes, rest stops, meal stops, gas stops, overnight lodging, and other features can all be planned ahead, printed out and then followed on a daily basis. For those that have a laptop with them, they could follow right along in "real time". *VisualGPS*, *GPSUtility* and *EasyGPS* are freeware and most others will have a trial version available on the Internet. Generally a new

GPS will come supplied with the PC/data cable required, and once connected to a computer a GPS can then achieve it's full potential. The ability to see where you have been or where you want to go, on a topographical or road map, adds a whole new dimension to travel in the great outdoors.

EasyGPS – www.easygps.com
 VisualGPS – www.appollocom.com
 GARTrip – www.gartrip.de
 GPSUtility – www.gpsu.co.uk
 GPSTrackmaker – www.gpstm.com
 OZIEplorer – www.ozieplorer.com

Next time – GPS fun and games *

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

Raven Archery
 Kentville, Nova Scotia
Ph: (902) 678-2601
Serving Archers Since 1980

JJD's
 SHOOTING & FISHING SUPPLIES LTD.
 E-mail: jds@jdsshooting.ns.ca
 Reloading Supplies • Rifles & Shotguns •
 Gun Repair • Scopes • Jennings & PSE Bows •
 Camo Clothing • Hunting Boots • Bow Repairs

John Dorey
 45 Prospect Bay Rd.
 Prospect Bay, N.S.
 B3T 1Z4

Hrs. M-W-T-F9-9
 Tues.12-9
 Sat.9-4

Visa • Master • Interac
Tel: (902) 852-2551

**Stewiacke Home Hardware,
 Building & Hunting Supplies Ltd.**
 Stewiacke, Nova Scotia
Ph: 1-902-639-2347
 Fax: 1-902-639-9045

RIVER OAKS
 Open for Green Fees
 and Tournaments

Lodging available for
 Golfers, Hunters & Fishermen

Meaghers Grant, NS
384-2033

If You DO NOT Ice Fish

Please return your Angling
 License Stub & Personal
 Fishing Records NOW!

For information call:
 902-485-5056

NOVA SCOTIA
 Fisheries and Aquaculture
 Ernest Page, Minister

AUDOBON & CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY

**ANNOUNCING THE 6TH ANNUAL
 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

**We Invite You To Join Us
 February 14-17, 2003**

- All ages and skill levels welcome
- Help scientists define the status of winter birds
- Join backyard birders from Nome to Key West
 - Become a Citizen Scientist
 - Spread the word

**PARTICIPATE BY VISITING
<http://www.birdsource.org>**

Audobon Contact: citizenscience@audobon.org
 Cornell Contact: cornellbirds@cornell.edu

Canada's Network For Nature

Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service protects and maintains 143 special places in Canada set aside and protected by the federal government just for wildlife. In Nova Scotia, there are 8 National Wildlife Areas and 13 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Some of the country's most important sites for wildlife and some of its most scenic spots are part of this national network. For example, 10% of the world's population of Semipalmated Sandpipers carpet the beaches and mudflats of Shepody and Chignecto National Wildlife Areas at migration time.

Environment Canada through the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) manages the National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries constituting some 11.8 million hectares (almost 30 million acres), an area more than twice the size of Nova Scotia. Some are as large as Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area in the Northwest Territories at 262,400 hectares (648,404 acres) others as small as Eleanor Island in Ontario at .6 of a hectare (less than 2,000 square feet)

Why Are Some Areas Set Aside For Wildlife?

Each wild plant and animal species needs a specific habitat with specific characteristics, such as an appropriate climate, food and shelter to which the species is

ideally adapted. Animals that migrate, for example, caribou and many birds, need several different habitats during the course of the year. They may breed in one habitat, winter in another, while migrating between them along a route with multiple food and rest stops.

The Canadian Wildlife Service identifies nationally important wildlife habitat and works closely with other organizations and individuals to ensure these areas are protected as National Wildlife Areas or Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. As well, the Canadian Wildlife Service promotes habitat-sensitive land-use practices on and off of these special places.

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries must support a significant proportion (1% or more) of a migratory bird species. Within a Migratory Bird Sanctuary, hunting is not allowed and birds are protected from harassment or disturbance. The land may be owned privately or publicly, but is regulated by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Some are very small such as Machias Seal Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, near Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy. At 10 hectares (25 acres), it is the most important nesting colony for Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, and Arctic Terns south of Newfoundland.

National Wildlife Areas

Today, the biggest threat to migratory birds (and to other wildlife species) is the loss and degradation of habitat. In 1973, the Canada Wildlife Act was passed to allow designation of refuges known as National Wildlife Areas where wildlife and habitat could receive protection. Cape Jourimain was named as one on June 6, 1980.

A National Wildlife Area must be owned by Environment Canada and provide habitat for a significant proportion of a migratory bird species or; for rare or endangered species; represent rare or unusual wildlife habitat; or possess a high potential for conservation research and education. As of June, 2001, forty-nine National Wildlife Areas protect almost 500,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) of habitat.

In most National Wildlife Areas, visitors are allowed to hike, canoe, take photos, and watch birds. Traditional uses may be allowed to continue: trapping, hunting, and fishing are part of some management plans.

National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are not parks. However, many sites are open to the public. A few provide special facilities to view wildlife. Most National Wildlife Areas and almost all Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are not staffed and do not have onsite visitor services. The Canadian Wildlife Service, may prohibit visitors entirely during critical periods, such as nesting and moulting. Other sites are closed to the public seasonally or permanently.

All Canadians have a stewardship responsibility for wildlife. We at the Canadian Wildlife Service invite you to work with us to ensure that there will be abundant, healthy wildlife populations for the benefit of this and future generations.

National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are marked by signs which depict the distinctive blue Loon symbol of the Canadian Wildlife Service. The loon and its haunting cries have come to symbolize Canada's vast wilderness. The loon reminds us that no matter where we are in Canada we are never very far from nature. *

To find out more about Canada's protected areas, go to our Web site: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca

Reindeer

Did you know ... While both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen - had to be a girl.

We should've known.

Only women would be able to drag a fat-ass man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters



Call or Fax:

(902) 477-8898

W.R. Graham Services Ltd.

Specializing in:

GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMPS

Groundwater Specialists

W.G. (Bill) Graham, B. Sc. New Glasgow, N.S.
Hydrogeologist **1-888-935-3745**
(902) 752-8936
wrgraham.findhere.com

Osteophagia Among Moose Of Cape Breton Highlands

By Erin Roger and Tony Nette, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Observations of antler chewing by moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) were made in the Cape Breton Highlands of Nova Scotia during 2001. These sightings were followed up with preliminary fieldwork inspecting 98 shed antlers and recording extent and location of chewing, as well as antler size. Initial findings indicate over 30% of shed antlers in this area have been chewed by moose within one month of the antlers becoming available after snow melt. We have been unable to find any previous reports of osteophagia by moose.

Chewing of antlers and bones has been described as an innate behaviour in herbivorous animals, triggered by phosphorus deficiency (Denton, 1986; *BioEssays* 4(1): 40-42). This behaviour has been reported in cervids, bovids, giraffids, and camelids (Kierdorf, 1993; *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 3(1): 37-40). A higher incidence of bone/antler chewing in deer and elk appears to occur in males during the period of antler growth and mineralization, and in females during lactation (Bowyer, 1983; *Calif. Fish and Game*. 69(2): 84-88, Barrette, 1985; *Mammalia* 49(4): 491-500).

Deer can reduce osteoporosis and improve antler size and strength by increasing their mineral intake through osteophagia (Barrette, 1985). Chewing of bones is widespread in natural conditions and has a distinct geographical distribution which depends principally on the phosphorous content of the parent rock. Other contributing factors are excessive calcium, aluminium, or iron in the environment, which can reduce the availability of phosphorus to plants (Sutcliffe, 1973; *Nature* 246: 428-430).

Compelling evidence of ruminant osteophagia is the formation of a fork on one or both ends of the chewed specimen (Kierdorf, 1993) and a zigzag pattern at the tapered, chewed ends of the bone or antler (Sutcliffe, 1973). In cervids the bone is held lengthwise in one side of the mouth and is chewed by transverse movements of the jaw, the same way in which plant material is chewed by ruminants. During our limited (2 day) field work, no bones were found to inspect for evidence of chewing by moose. However,

in a number of cases, the zigzag pattern referred to above, was evident at the distal end of antler tines that had been chewed. The nature of breaks and chew marks on antlers inspected, seemed to indicate that the chewing had not been done by rodents, carnivores or black bear. White-tailed deer, the only other wild cervid in the province, are seldom found at higher elevation of the Cape Breton Highlands due to the depth of snow. There was no evidence of deer having been in the area of our investigation.

Osteophagia is reported to cause mouth bleeding, and instances of bone pieces wedged in the mouth. Large pieces of bone swallowed have also resulted in injury and death (Kierdorf, 1993). Sutcliffe (1973) cites reports of botulism in cattle as a result of chewing bones with

associated decaying musculature. Due to the physical consequences of osteophagia, it is assumed that it most often occurs as a result of acute mineral deficiency, and is used to augment mineral intake. Plant and soil samples from the Cape Breton Highlands must be analysed to confirm if this area is deficient in phosphorous, or if due to an excess of other elements, phosphorus may not be readily available to plants.

This study will be continued with the intent of determining if there is a relationship between this apparent expression of a mineral deficiency, and a high incidence of incisor teeth breakage observed in the same moose population. *

For more information, contact Tony Nette at 902-679-6140 or email: netteal@gov.ns.ca

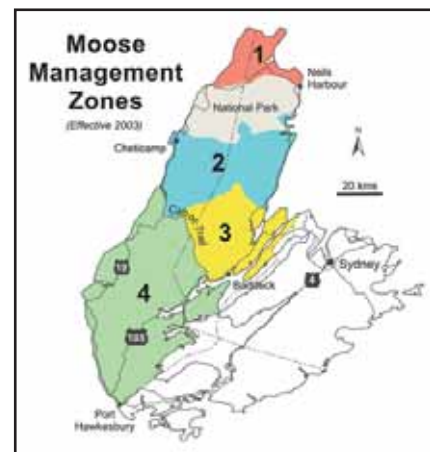
2003 Brings Changes To Moose Hunting In Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia moose hunters will notice two major changes in 2003. Two one-week seasons will replace the current two-week season, and the implementation of available moose quotas by moose management zones.

The first moose hunting season will begin on the last Monday of September and end on the following Saturday (Sept. 29-Oct 4, 2003). The second hunting season will begin on the first Monday in October and end on the following Saturday (Oct 6 - Oct 11, 2003).

Moose hunting in Cape Breton will now be managed on a zone basis. Four zones have been established (see map). Hunters applying to the Moose Draw will now have to state in which zone, and in which season, they would like to hunt. A legal description of the moose zone boundaries can be seen at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/hunt/draws.htm>.

These changes have been made to better distribute hunting pressure throughout the range of the moose population, reduce hunter crowding, and adjust hunting pressure in a specific area if required. The number of licenses available for each zone, in each of the two seasons, will be set annually in consideration of population estimates for each zone, hunter success rates, harvest in each zone in the previous year, and for the Pollett



Cove - Aspy Fault Wilderness Area, the number of all terrain vehicles associated with the hunt and their impact on designated trails.

Information about the changes was included in the *2002 Nova Scotia Hunting & Furharvesting Licence & Summary of Regulations* booklet and is posted on the DNR website ... <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/hunt/regulations/>

As in 2002, applications to the Moose Draw will be handled by phone call to Target Communications, the call centre that has handled the Moose and Antlerless Deer draws in the past. The phone lines open for applications on April 1, 2003. *

An Update On Bill C-10

The bill passed second reading in the Senate last week after lengthy debate — mirroring House of Commons concerns it could leave hunters, anglers, farmers and medical researchers open to charges of animal cruelty — and was sent to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for review.

In a rare move, the Senate passed another motion to instruct the committee to split the bill and deal separately with its Firearms Act and animal-cruelty changes — an agreement apparently made earlier with the government side of the chamber. Obviously, it wants to move the bill along.

With both the House and Senate slated to rise before Christmas for winter break, however, sources say the controversial animal-cruelty legislation could be stalled in committee until next year.

What must pass soon, however, or there will be problems for the

government's beloved gun-control program on Jan. 1, are the Firearm Act changes, which include establishing a Commissioner of Firearms and grandfathering ownership of some pre-1998 handguns (now banned). They received little attention or comment in the House or the Senate, although some politicians questioned why there was a need for another high-paid bureaucrat.

Greg Farrant, government relations manager for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), said the firearms community had given general support earlier to the Firearms Act changes. With the bill split, they could be pushed more quickly through the Senate.

Pay Attention

Ironically, sources say the Liberal government expected the Firearms Act changes to cause the biggest ruckus, yet

it's the animal-cruelty law changes that have seen growing concern and opposition, even among Liberal backbenchers. They should have paid more attention before they voted to pass the bill in the House of Commons last spring.

Farrant says OFAH supports the bill's increased fines and penalties for unnecessary animal cruelty, but they could have been done through simple amendments to existing legislation. The group wants the broad definition of an animal left out of the bill and "lawful and reasonable excuse" clauses reinstated — the same changes many MPs and Senators are calling for.

Let's hope the Senate committee is successful at convincing the government to make them. The issue has been dragging on, held hostage by animal-rights groups that won't settle for clear, concise legislation that would more strongly penalize people who mistreat animals, while giving continued legal protection to accepted practices. *



PRINCECRAFT
A Higher Standard of Quality

- Fore and aft raised casting platforms with storage compartments
- 44-in. (77 l) dual electric-fill aerated bow livewell with anti-spill cover
- Deluxe molded dash panel with fully-lit instrumentation
- 12V trolling motor panel with plug, receptacle and wiring harness
- Deep cycle battery storage



Corbett's Gun and Tackle Ltd.
45 Union St., P.O. Box 1228
Liverpool, NS B0T 1K0
Ph: (902) 354-4341 Fx: (902) 354-5929

Langille's Boating Centre Ltd.
1450 Main St., P.O. Box 190
Eastern Passage, NS B3G 1M5
Ph/Fx: 1-902-465-6044

N.S. Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Ball Caps Available



Green Corduroy Ball Cap with Crest
\$15.00

Mossy Oak Camo with Crest
\$20.00

Use order form on Page 21



Mercury introduces the most advanced 4-stroke technology the world has ever seen. The 50 horsepower, Mercury 4-Stroke is among the quietest running engines you can own.



50 HP

Frank Mackley Equipment
83 Blacketts Lake Road
Sydney, NS B1L 1B9
Ph: (902) 562-7330

Charlie's Repairs
75 County Line Road
Cleveland, NS B0E 1J0
Ph: (902) 625-3964

Brad'or Auto Body Recreation and Marine
203 Villa Drive, Little Brad'or, NS B1Y 2Y8
Ph: (902) 736-8218 Fax: (902) 736-2792

Langille's Boat Centre Ltd.
1450 Main Street, P.O. Box 190
Eastern Passage, NS B3G 1M5
Ph/Fax: (902) 465-6044

Oak Lake Sports Ltd.
RR 5, Bridgewater, NS B4V 2W4
Ph: (902) 543-4108
oaklakesports.com

A Walk In The Woods

The Larch Is A Failure Of An Evergreen

By Don Cameron

"Each planet, each plant, each butterfly, each moth, each beetle, becomes doubly real to you when you know its name."

John C. Powys

There is a tree that you may have noticed recently that is becoming increasingly yellow-orange in colour. This conifer goes by many names including: eastern larch, tamarack, hackmatack, and



Don Cameron

sometimes juniper. The name "juniper" properly belongs to the true juniper, a creeping shrub with small sharp needles and bluish, berry-like

cones. It is an interesting tree that can be found in every province and territory in Canada. Known as *Larix laricina* by forest professionals, this tree is rather unique. It is a species that usually blends into the conifer forest backdrop, appearing in the summer somewhat similar to the other conifers such as the spruces, pines, balsam fir, and hemlock. However, in late

fall this tree starts to stand out on its own. In late October the needles start to turn yellowish. As the season progresses, the needles darken to a golden colour. Finally, in November when the cold is here to stay, the larch says farewell to summer by dropping its needles to become a "naked conifer".

Tree identification books indicate that the larch is a small to medium-sized tree with spirelike, open crown and a long trunk; soft blue-green deciduous foliage in small clusters resembling whisk brooms; and small upright cones. Some of the more distinctive characteristics include: soft, flexible needles in clumps of 10-20 needles per cluster, approximately 2.5 cm long, and light green in colour.

Larch can be considered an indicator of site conditions in most cases where it can be found growing naturally. Similar to alders, the presence of patches of larch on a site usually indicate that it is fairly wet at times due to less than perfect drainage. This could be due to heavy soils, underlying clay, shallow bedrock, boggy and swampy conditions. As such, it is often found growing associated with black spruce, red maples and alders in and around fairly open wet areas.

The larch is generally a fast growing tree that tolerates very little shade, and therefore likes to grow in the open sunlight. It grows best on drier sites where it can grow up to 21 metres (70 feet) tall and more than half a metre (2 feet) in di-

ameter.

When the French settlers first arrived in Canada, they referred to larch by the name *epinette* (spruce), which was used at that time for several species of conifers. In past eras its resin and bark have been used to treat kidney and lung disorders and ulcers, and to dress burns; its leaves can be used to make a tea and an antiseptic. Its resin, when dried and ground, was used as a baking powder, and the First Nations people used its roots to sew together pieces of birch bark when making their canoes and wigwams.

Larch wood is hard, strong and rot-resistant, even in water and the ground, and thus can be used for posts, poles and wharves. Its roots, which are curved, sometimes by as much as 90 degrees, were formerly used by shipbuilders to create the curved bow piece that attaches to the keel and receives the planking.

During the 1800's larch was so heavily logged for the shipbuilding trade that the amount of prime stock became depleted. Today the markets for larch are limited. The reason for this is likely not because of limitations of the wood, but probably due to the limited amount, patch distribution, and its tendency to grow somewhat crooked, curved and to a relatively small diameter.

Besides logging and forest fires taking its toll on the volume of larch in Nova Scotia, the larch sawfly, an insect that feeds voraciously on larch needles in the larvae stage, can cause a significant amount of damage.

Many types of wildlife enjoy larch trees as well. Snowshoe hare eat the needles, while ruffed grouse and other birds make meals of the seeds. The small branches are sometimes browsed by deer, and porcupines eat the bark. Of course, we humans cannot pretend to know of all the intricate connections and interdependence that exists among the many forest plants and animals. We just see the "tip of the iceberg". *

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

Camping At Hibernia, For You

The Nova Scotia Guides Association has hosted our Conservation School in recent years in conjunction with their Junior Guides School. The Association facilities are located at Hibernia, Queens County between First and Second Christopher Lakes, the home of the annual Labor Day Guides Meet and the August Trappers Meet. Since 1920, their Government recognized mandate is the preservation of the tradition of Hunting and Fishing Guiding in Nova Scotia while conserving fish and wildlife. Approximately 80 seasonal campsites exist at Hibernia with overnight camping also available. Working volunteer members receive a discount on the annual rate while supporting the advancement of these worthwhile activities. Consider contributing as a volunteer camping member toward these goals at their wilderness site, and enjoy summer to its fullest. A limited number of working member seasonal sites are now available.


For additional information, please contact Susan Zinck at (902) 634-3256 or N. S. Guides Assoc., P. O. Box 641, Liverpool, N. S. B0T 1K0.

Tractor Plus Ltd
Amherst, NS
Ph: (902) 667-1888

**LAKEVIEW HOME HARDWARE
BUILDING CENTRE**
5228 Hwy. #7, Porter's Lake, N.S.
"Hunting Licenses
& Hunting Supplies"
Ph: (902) 827-3534 Fax: (902) 827-5183

**Scott R. MacDonald
Woodlands**
RR#3, Westville, NS
(902) 396-3386


FOLD THIS FLAP IN FIRST (A)

fold here 

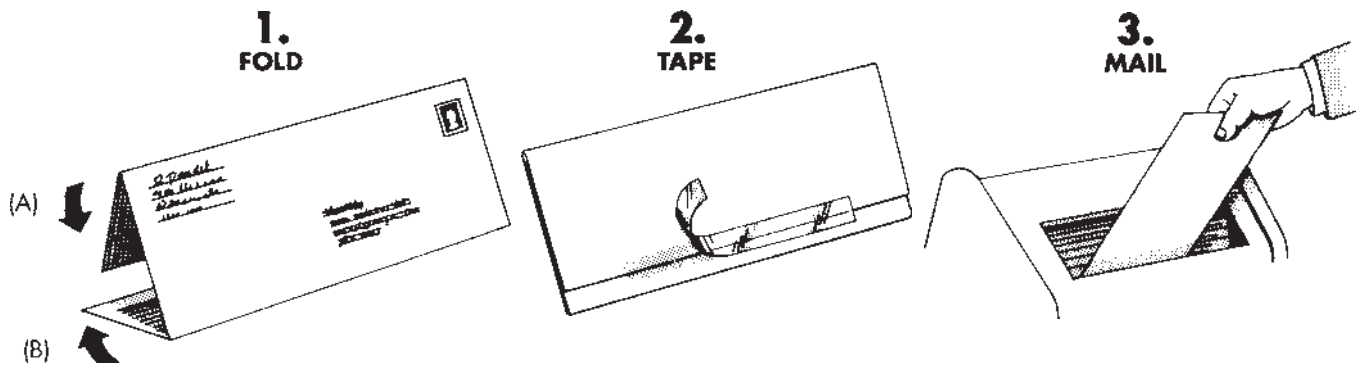


0196968400-B3J2T3-BR01

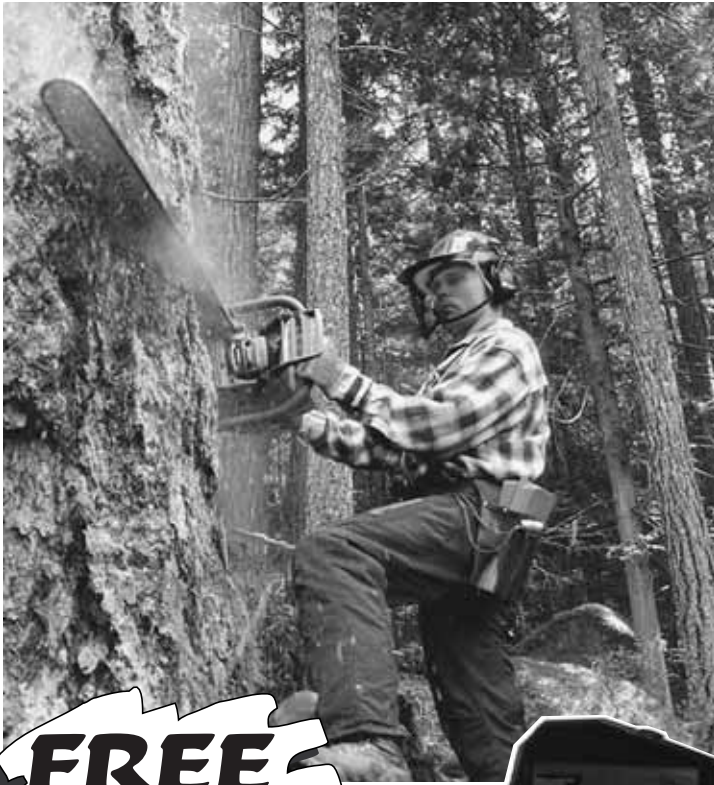
NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS
PO BOX 654 STN CENTRAL
HALIFAX NS B3J 9Z9

fold here 

NO ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED



TOUGH NAME. TOUGH EQUIPMENT.



FREE
\$80 RETAIL VALUE

Husqvarna
CROWN KIT



Husqvarna 136

\$329.95

\$20 SAVINGS

Husqvarna 351

\$559.95

\$100 SAVINGS

Husqvarna 340

\$399.95

\$80 SAVINGS

Husqvarna 55 RANCHER

\$569.95

\$110 SAVINGS

Husqvarna 345

\$459.95

\$70 SAVINGS

Husqvarna 365 SPECIAL

\$719.95

\$80 SAVINGS

Husqvarna

1-800-HUSKY62
www.husqvarna.com

AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS

MARITIME LAWN & GARDEN

2756 Gladstone St.
Halifax, NS B3K 4W5
(902) 455-0208

COULSTRINGS RENTALS & REPAIRS

29 Hubley Mill Lake Road
Upper Tantallon, NS
(902) 826-2872

PROUDFOOT MOTORS

260 Westville Road
New Glasgow, NS B2H 2J5
(902) 752-6220

P&A EQUIPMENT (1998) LTD.

166 Junction Road
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0
(902) 825-3042

WILSON'S SHOPPING CENTRE LTD.

Box 70
Barrington Passage, NS
1-800-565-2300

CROSS SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

69 Conquerall Road
Hebbs Cross, NS B4V 2W3
(902) 543-9683

LEONARD COMEAU LTD.

Box 120, RR#1
Saulnierville, NS B0W 2Z0
(902) 769-2425

JERRY'S R.V. SALES & SERVICE

9384 Commercial Street
New Minas, NS B4N 3E9
(902) 681-9501

ROWE INDUSTRIAL SALES & SERVICE

735 Hwy. #2
Elmsdale, NS
902) 883-1082

SCOTHORN EQUIPMENT LTD.

8727 Hardwood Lands
RR#1 Milford, NS B0N 1Y0
(902) 758-3071

M&C POWER EQUIPMENT LTD.

4013 Route 236
RR#1 Truro, NS B2N 5A9
(902) 895-2400

BUTLER'S SMALL ENGINE & REPAIRS LTD.

353 Ohio Road, Box 278
Shelburne, NS B0T 1W0
(902) 875-4186

MAHAR SALES & SERVICE

PO Box 218
Berwick, NS B0P 1E0
(902) 538-7449

VIENOTTE'S CHAINSAW SALES & SERVICE (1996) LTD.

RR#2 Bridgewater, NS B4V 2W1
(902) 543-4502

*National Wildlife Areas and
Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
in Nova Scotia*

*Part of Canada's
Network for Nature*



*National Wildlife Areas (NWA) and
Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) in Nova Scotia*

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 – Amherst Point NWA/MBS | 8 - Haley Lake MBS |
| 2 – Wallace Bay NWA | 9 – Sable River MBS |
| 3 – Margaree Island (Sea Wolf Island) NWA | 10 – Sand Pond NWA |
| 4 – Big Glace Bay MBS | 11 – Kentville MBS |
| 5 – Sable Island MBS | 12 – Boot Island NWA |
| 6 – Port Hebert MBS | |
| 7 – Port Joli MBS | |

*The Blue Loon means that this area is protected for
wildlife and there may be restrictions
such as no use of motorized vehicles.
For details on specific areas, contact the
Canadian Wildlife Service
at 506-364-5044 .*



Environnement
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

Service canadien
de la faune

Canada