

NEWSLETTER

Coming Events —Annual Elections

Start time is 7:30 P.M. for the April 6 meeting at the Police Association Offices. This is on the second floor upstairs over Proulx Photo –141 Catherine Street near the corner of Bank and Catherine. The parking lot is across from the Police Association.

Annual Elections

Here are the results of the elections.

President: – Jim Lumsden

Treasurer: – Mark Patry

Club-Fish Coordinator:– Neil McColl

Score-keeper and Statistician:
Greg Gajda

New Members

Michel Belley (père)

Philippe Belley (fils)

Allison Edgecombe

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On the Agenda

You won't want to miss the April meeting because we will be planning our April outing to the Carp Fishing Show. This has always been a fun event since it is one of the few times that we get a chance to have a meal together then go off and spend some money on fishing stuff that we really need (yeah, right!). It has always been well attended so make sure you get a spot for yourself.

We will also be discussing the upcoming 2005 Club Fish schedule at the April meeting. If you're one of the members who attend a number of Club Fishes each year, then we want to hear your opinions.

Of course, everyone's input on this matter is welcome.

New on the OFC Web site:

New – the OFC Classifieds Page.
Now you can sell that old equipment gathering dust in your closet or look for equipment that some of your fellow OFC members may be looking to sell.

Email Greg with the details

gajda@compmore.net

Draft Club Fish Schedule

May 7	Crappiethon	Reeve Craig
May 22	Mississippi Lake	9th Concession Road
June 4	Musky Opener	Reeve Craig
June 18	Ottawa River	Ottawa River Catfest Wendover
July 3	Jim MacDonald Memorial	White Lake
July 13		Reeve Craig
July 16		Edmonds Lock
July 27		Reeve Craig
August 4		Dick Bell Park
August 13		Wendover
August 24		Reeve Craig
August 28		Mississippi Lake
September 10		White Lake
September 14		Reeve Craig
September 24		Mississippi Lake
October 1		Wendover
October 15		Rockland
October 22		Rockland

Urban Fishing Series

This is a follow-up to the Dows Lake event of last year in which some of the OFC members took part.

Subject: Urban Fishing in 2005

Hello again,

The 2005 Fishing Season is almost upon us and we are getting ready for another fantastic year promoting Urban Fishing in the Ottawa area.

Your suggestions at last fall's workshop prompted me to create an interactive website dedicated to Urban Fishing in the Ottawa area. Sites that are identified are launch areas along the Ottawa River and the Rideau River that are within the City of Ottawa boundary. Shoreline fishing opportunities are also identified along the rivers as well as Dow's Lake. Hopefully our website will be live on the MNR web pages soon, but in the meantime come check it out at the Carp Fishing show April 8,9, 10th. I will have a demonstration there for you to check out (hopefully).

We are again going to have the Dow's Lake Fishing Event for youth on the OFFW and will hopefully be involved in more events throughout the season. We are going to be developing a one-day, or a few hour fishing clinic that can be delivered by you (our partners) at your various clubs to interested and hopefully at fishing events/derbies. We are planning a meeting with you (our partners) in the middle of May to discuss this year's activities and get geared up for the season.

Also in this years budget will be planning for access upgrade for a boat launch. We have targeted Blair Road Launch as the boat launch that needs the most attention. We will also be developing Informative Fishing Signs to be placed at identified urban fishing spots. These signs will have info such as key identifiers of common fish species, habitat requirements, fishing seasons, as well as a map of the area and info on where to get more information. We are also thinking of having a small directional sign (a fish with an arrow) placed on major roadways near fishing spots that will direct people to identified fishing spots.

I hope you are all on board this year for promoting urban fishing and will be able to attend a meeting in May to discuss your ideas. This note is just something to get you thinking and to let you know that we're eager to get started this year.

Take care, and hopefully I'll see a few familiar faces at the Carp Fishing Show (I'll be there Friday night) but the website display should be going all weekend.

Cathy Leeson-Roche, Ministry of Natural Resources

Kemptville District, 10 Campus Drive

P.O. Bag 2002, Kemptville, ON, K0G 1J0

(The Female of the Species is) Deadlier than the Male

Jake was dying.

His wife, Becky, was maintaining a candlelight vigil by his side. She held his fragile hand, tears running down her face. Her praying roused him from his slumber.

He looked up and his pale lips began to move slightly.

"Becky my darling" he whispered.

"Hush, Jake," she said. "Rest, don't talk."

He was insistent.

"Becky," he said in a tired voice, "I have something that I must confess."

"There's nothing to confess," replied the weeping Becky. "Everything's going to be all right; go to sleep."

"No, no. I must die in peace, Becky. I – was unfaithful to you.

He choked out the words.

"I slept with your sister, your best friend, her best friend, and – , and – your mother!"

"I know, sweetheart," whispered Becky, "let the poison work."

That cautionary tale is courtesy of Sandy Grant.

Another deadly female...

Little year old Nancy was in the garden filling in a hole when her neighbour peered over the fence.

Interested in what the rosy-cheeked youngster was up to, he politely asked, "What are you doing there, Nancy?"

"My goldfish died," replied Nancy tearfully without looking up, "and I've just buried him."

The neighbour was touched but amused when he observed, "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?"

Nancy patted down the last heap of dirt, then replied, "That's because he's inside your damn cat!"

I didn't have room for this last month. Excerpted from the full article.

The Lovely Ling

By James Smedley www.fishontario.com/ice-fishing/articles/lovely-ling/



“Hidden under the ling’s rough exterior is delicious, firm, white flesh. Beauty, however, is in the eye of the beholder. Some call ling ugly. I wouldn’t want to find one in my bed, but its handsome, barbel-adorned mouth, deeply mottled brown hide, and eel-like tail,

with full fin running down its back and belly, make it a unique, exquisite fish. All it takes is a big mouthful of ling meat to turn what might be perceived as ugly and undesirable into a delicacy.

The ling (lota lota) is the single surviving freshwater member of the codfish family. Widespread throughout Eurasia and North America, it has a number of common names, including ling-cod, freshwater cod, burbot, eelpout, loche, maria, methy, and lawyer.

In Ontario, ling are native to cold, deep lakes, and during winter they share the habitat of lake trout and walleye. But while most trout anglers pack up with the setting sun, ling zealots stay on the ice after dark. Ling feed in earnest then, close to bottom.

They'll eat just about any organic bait, but prefer live or dead minnows. Chumming with a handful of dead minnows can attract foraging ling. One effective bottom rig consists of an egg sinker, barrel swivel, and single hook or quickstrike rig embedded in a 3 to 6 inch minnow. A ling quickstrike rig is two single hooks in series. One hook is placed behind the minnow's dorsal fin, the other in its mouth. Let the egg sinker rest on bottom. Use an outfit that allows letting out slack on the strike. A slow deliberate pull on the line indicates a hit.

They're one of the few Canadian freshwater fish that spawn mid-winter under the ice. Although spawning occurs in 1 to 10 feet of water at night, ling return to deep-water haunts by day. During the two – to – three-week spawning period (throughout February and into March in Ontario), post-spawning ling are aggressive and will hit lures.

Considered a coarse fish and roundly despised, records show that from the late 1920s to 1959, the Ontario Department of Game and Fisheries administered the use of nets to remove spawning ling. This assault on Ontario's ling continued at a rate of up to 25 tons (26 tonnes) annually.

Ling removal failed to demonstrate a benefit to gamefish populations, so it ceased. The last reference to ling removal was in 1959 when three hoop nets operating in Charleston Lake, Rideau District, removed 28, 710 pounds (13,034 kg) of them.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has no policy against coarse fish removal, but it is now analysed on a case-by-case basis, and ling seem safe from the type of large scale eradication programmes of the past. Emerging from a turbulent history, the despised ling-cod is holding its head a little higher these days. Throughout the province, ling are promoted as a tasty fish to provide increased angling opportunity and to take pressure off more popular fish, such as trout and walleye.

Anglers are slow to embrace the ling, but this unassuming bottom dweller deserves a second look. The sight of one writhing on the ice might not move you to poetry, but after a close examination and a good feed of these unique fish, it's amazing how beautiful they become."

If they were serious about getting rid of them, they'd turn over ling management to the Feds. They've managed the saltwater cod into near extinction.