

NEWSLETTER

MOE – Thursday, August 3 Meeting

Location – NEW – Hartwell Locks on the Rideau opposite Carleton University.. Road access is from Prince of Wales Drive, approximately halfway between Baseline Road and the roundabout at the Experimental Farm. Bring your rod if you want to try some fishing before the meeting which is **NOT, repeat NOT,** Upstairs at the Legion Hall, Westboro Branch - 391 Richmond Road, between Churchill and Roosevelt Avenues. *Parking is on neighbouring streets. Start time – 7 pm.*

Coming Club Fishes

Wednesday, August 9 – Reeve Craig

Saturday, August 12 – Madawaska Head Pond

Saturday, August 19– Clayton Lake

Wednesday August 23 – Reeve Craig

Sunday August 27 – Mississippi Lake

AUGUST MEETING Hartwell Locks THURSDAY, August 3 – 7 pm

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Miscellaneous Mutterings

Moe – please note that the Thursday, August 3 meeting is at Hartwell Locks, and not at the Legion Hall on Richmond Road. Ignore the information about parking on the neighbouring streets.

BOYS AND GIRLS CANAL DERBY – JULY 9

The Dow's Lake Event, held on the Sunday of the Provincial Family Fishing Week, grew over 2004 and 2005. Youth got free fishing equipment, a hotdog BBQ, drinks, bait, and angling expertise and assistance from volunteers.

Surprise! MNR cut out the funding for the 3rd year of the provincial Urban Fishing Program.

Thanks to a few key groups and individuals, namely; The Ottawa Fishing Club, Ottawa Valley South Bassmasters, Osprey Fishing Charters, East Ottawa Optimist Club, NCC and MNR COs, Scott Smithers and Neil McColl, the 2006 Dow's Lake Youth Fishing Day became a reality for 150 young people. The Canadian National Sportsman Show donated fishing combos, tackle packs and hats. Other sponsors included Mid-East Foods; Voyageur Depot; Tim Horton's – Merivale Road; Alves, and Berkeley. Many groups helped support the event through monetary donations and volunteers.

Club Fishes Results**Sunday, July 9 - Wendover:**

I didn't get any reports on this event.

Wednesday, July 12 – Reeve Craig

Jim went with Charles Gao and fished until 8 PM. Jim got pike – 25, 26, 27, and 31 inches plus lost some. He boated largemouth at 14, 14, and 16 inches and lost some. Charles got a number of largemouth and pike. Greg and Allison got on the water shortly before 7 PM. Allison got 3 largemouth at 15.5, 13.5 and 11 inches and 3 pike at 20, 16, and 14 inches. Greg got a lone 16.5 largemouth.

Saturday, July 22 – Edmonds Lock:

Charles Gao and I were the only ones who showed up. Charles really cleaned my clock. He launched at the dirt ramp at Kilmarnock. Using spinnerbaits – a “yo-yo” retrieve – proved deadly. He got 8 fish between 2 and 4 PM then nothing until 6 PM. He switched to the other side of the channel and got 4 more fish.

He got 2 17” LM, a 15, 14, 14.5, 2 12” LM., and lost a big LM that ignored his drag settings and left. He got 6 pike – 22”, 23” and others around 20 –21”.

I was at the other end of the stretch of canal. I got 4 good LM and a few small ones, but not a sniff of a pike.

The weather was overcast with a nice breeze. I left about 5 PM.

Wednesday, July 26 – Reeve Craig

A good turnout – the results were as follows:

Greg: 17”, 16, 13.5, 12, 12 – all LM – Allison: 26”, 20” pike and a 14.5 “LM.

Jim: 15.25 “ and 9” LM, 16” pike.

Charles: 24” pike, 14” LM

Ed: 14” LM and a gigantic 3-point swirl under a SCUM FROG that sent it flying but no hookup and no repeat.

Mark: nothing – 5 hits – fished until dark.

Saturday, July 26 – Merrickville “Pike-Fest”

Pike shut down the bass. At least 30 pike between us in about 4 hours – Ian had a decided edge. We tried fishing slow, fast, deep, shallow, and trolled. No difference – we changed areas – just couldn't get away from them. Ian was clever enough to fish with a plastic hook protector on a spinnerbait – it didn't stop them from hitting it 4 and 5 times on a single cast. Most were hammerhandles, but there were quite a number around 20 inches and we each got a 24 incher. We sat out a thunderstorm reasonably comfortably- ate sandwiches – watched lightning – great stuff!

Trolling for Stats – Fantasy Fishing Hooks Landlubbers

Kevin J. Delaney – Wall Street Journal, July 20, 2006, Page A1

“Under an enormous tent in a Wal-Mart parking lot earlier this year, some of the country’s top fishermen hoisted their freshly caught largemouth bass. Fans and television cameras looked on as the anglers competed for a \$200,000 check. Standing near the back was another fishing champion, Bob Fowler. But the contest he won didn’t require him to land any fish or even get anywhere near the water. Mr. Fowler is among the growing number of Americans hooked on a pastime known as “fantasy fishing”.

Before each professional fishing tournament, Mr. Fowler spends hours on the Internet researching the pro anglers and considering factors such as weather forecasts and the depth of lakes where they’re competing. He enters his picks on a free fantasy-fishing Web site owned by pro fishing organizer FLW Outdoors and competes for prizes based on his predictions. In 2004, he won a model boat valued at \$200 for a first-place finish in a fantasy-fishing contest. Go to www.flwoutdoors.com - you’ll see the link.

ESPN runs a fantasy-fishing league with prizes that include an \$11,900 outboard motor. It says it has tens of thousands of participants. FLW Outdoors has about 40,000 fantasy players this year and a \$5,000 prize for the top fantasy finisher in each of its seven tour events. Go to <http://espn.go.com> -search on “fantasy fishing” or the keyword is “Bass Fantasy Fishing”.

Margie Ellis of Joplin, Mo., says she works on her fantasy-fishing picks every night. The 63 year old got into the hobby because her nephew, Randy Blaukat, is a pro angler. Earlier this year, she won a \$5,000 prize from FLW for her picks in a tournament on Lake Murray in Columbia, SC. Mark Zona, a host for several of ESPN’s bass-fishing programs, says he initially thought fantasy fishing “was like Dungeons and Dragons or something.” Now he believes there’s a science to it. He starts by dividing pro anglers into two groups: those who excel in shallow water and those who excel in deep water. Mr. Zona, 33, compares it to golf. “There are certain golfers that will excel where the drive is more important than your putting,” he says. “As in golf, certain fishermen will excel on one body of water.”

Some of the fantasy-fishing organizers aim to expand the statistics, a nod to the culture of numbers around fantasy baseball. The fantasy-fishing leagues’ sites already provide detailed records of anglers’ performance in past tournaments. Now FLW is starting to provide a series of other stats about anglers, including “average weight per fish over careers,” “largest margin of victory” in pounds and “consecutive limits caught” which tracks anglers’ streaks of hitting their five-fish daily quota, with data going back to 1996 when the FLW Tour started.

Remote Knowledge Inc. of Houston has ambitions of providing ever-more-sophisticated data. It makes computer systems for the boats used by TV crews following the 10 finalists of each FLW tournament. The equipment can record information such as latitude and longitude, water depth and temperature each time a bass is landed and relay that by cellular and satellite links. Pros have qualms about publicizing the data about prized fishing holes and techniques. Mr. Blaukat, a pro angler since 1989, says, “A fish is a creature you can’t predict.”

Good News for Ontario Poachers

Toronto Star, July 18, 2006 – edited version of an editorial yesterday in the **North Bay Nugget**.

“It is not often a commonly despised minority gets some good news but the hearts of many nasty people warmed a little recently.

Poachers, irresponsible and greedy anglers, thugs who use illegal fish nets, hunters who kill a small moose but leave it to rot while they search for a bigger prize – the whole disgusting mob had good reason to cheer.

True hunting and fishing enthusiasts and environmentalists felt a little sick.

The word came from Leah Casselman, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. Her union represents the Ministry of Natural Resources’ conservation officers. Casselman claims budget cuts will hamstring the enforcement of regulations and laws intended to conserve fish and wildlife.

It costs money every time conservation officers venture into the bush or patrol one of Ontario’s thousands of lakes. She alleges the MNR brass has told the officers to take it easy.

Casselman stated there will be a 40 per cent cut in enforcement targets for conservation officers, so fewer offenders will be charged. This also implies more poaching and damage to fish stocks. This, in turn, hurts tourist outfitters and the northern economy.

The union was told by the ministry that 35 currently vacant enforcement jobs will not be filled. As well, the province’s three airborne conservation officers in the north have been grounded.

Fewer boots on the ground and no eyes in the sky. The signal is clear. Gorge on moose and deer. Use illegal nets and kill bears out of season. Poachers’ chances of being detected have been greatly diminished.

MNR officials are making soothing noises. Of course, the union is a special interest, in a field full of special interests. But it should know what is going on. It sounds true, and all too familiar.

No doubt the MNR is fighting inflation. Gasoline costs are hitting every organization that must move on wheels, or by boat or airplane. Northerners have the uneasy feeling they have heard it all before. While assiduously seeking votes from animal lovers, wilderness advocates and every suburban expert on things northern, Queen’s Park rarely understands northern realities.

Catching reckless or impaired drivers is understandable, commendable and supported by voters. Catching poachers rarely gets publicity and will not earn many big-city votes.

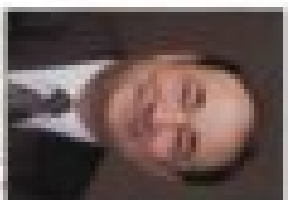
Cutting conservation enforcement budgets may make excellent political sense but it is a disservice to Ontario’s future generations and their heritage.”

Don’t blame me – I didn’t vote for Dalton MsQuinty’s Fibberals. Maybe we should plan to take up fantasy fishing?



Now that's a fish!

For those who do not know, the Kincardine Harbour is in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada. Kincardine is about 50 kilometres North of Goderich. This Sturgeon was caught on the Kincardine harbour on May 11, 2006 just off the Break Wall outside the Harbour on May 11, 11:00 hr. It weighed out at over 100lbs and measured out at 11'1". It was 56" around the girth. It took over 6 and a half hours and 8 dozen beers and 4 guys taking turns reeling. Bruno Labbate, who caught the fish but took the picture, so he is not shown in the picture!



Bruno Labbate



I think that a descendant of this fish took a swipe at a Scum Frog at the Club Fish on Wednesday, July 26. It missed.

The caption reads – A 110 lb catch – Bellemire, Mich.

I believe it, since a musky fisherman would never lie – they take the sport so seriously.

Besides, it would be bait for that sturgeon!



Now we know what lies at the end of the rainbow !