

NEWSLETTER

Meeting Location

Royal Canadian Legion, Westboro Branch
- 391 Richmond Road, between Churchill
and Roosevelt Avenues. *The parking is
on the neighbouring streets.*

*The next meeting is on Thursday,
January 5 at 7 PM. The meeting room
is upstairs.*

Awards Banquet

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1 at the Legion

6:30 PM – Meet and greet

7:00 PM – Chicken Dinner

**Price: \$10 each. The Club is
subsidizing this event.**

**Please call Dave Mingie – 744-
0319 – to confirm attendance. We
need to commit for specific
numbers over 25.**

Upcoming Club Fishes

None –

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Fishing Club Flyer

2 Chief MacNab of MacNab

3 A Legend Passes On

4 Leader Material vs. Line

5 Bring 'Em Back Alive!

6 Seconds To Live!

Musings From Glorious Leader

For our January meeting, members are asked to bring out several fishing lures or equipment that on reflection you would not buy again.

Items such as:

- Pocket Fisherman
- The whale size spoon that seemed like a good idea at the time
- The lure “as advertised on TV” that Aunt Betty bought you for Christmas
- Conventional lures that you bought in every size and colour after one good outing
- Contenders for the “Best for the Garbage Can” Award

NOTE: Entries for the 2005 Big Fish Trophies are closed!

Jim also wanted to mention that we are making an initial \$100 donation to the Legion for the use of their facilities for the next 6 months.

Fishing Club Flyer

Greg has come up with a really good-looking flyer to promote the OFC. I would hope that we spend a bit of money to put them out in colour. I'm sure that we can distribute them to the various outlets in the area, and have them available on the OFC web site for download.

Chief MacNab of MacNab

In the February 1899 issue of the **Canadian Home Journal** (yes, I am a little behind in my reading), there was an article referring to the life and times of Chief MacNab of MacNab. As you all remember from your high school history classes, he was well known for trying to transplant the Scottish feudal system into Canada by bringing over Scottish immigrants who had “belonged” to the clan MacNab back in Scotland. This did not work out well for MacNab, especially since he had trouble telling the difference between those that he thought he had some feudal rights over and the rest of the population. Moreover, his serfs got the wrong idea of their position in life. Anyway

This article sparked a letter to the editor by a man who, as a boy in the early 1800's, had known “the MacNab”, and wanted to point out some redeeming features of this colourful character. He mentioned that Chief MacNab had often been a guest in their home and had entertained the family with romantic tales of Scottish history (with considerable emphasis, no doubt, on the glorious exploits of the clan MacNab).

Why is this of interest to the OFC, you ask? Shame on you, if you didn't instantly recognize the name of MacNab and the link to White Lake and Waba Cottage!

The writer goes on to say that, as an adult, he learned that MacNab had many faults to go along with his many good qualities.

*“Be to his faults a little blind,
And to his virtues very kind.”*

He recalled a visit that he had made to see the Presbyterian minister at White Lake. A neighbour of the minister turned out to be a relative of the Chief's, and had some of his possessions, which the writer had seen the Chief using and wearing, such as a Scotch blue bonnet. He also visited Waba Cottage.

An anecdote is mentioned that at a wedding of the daughter of a Mr. Toschack, of Ramsay, all the aristocrats of the area were invited. In those days the roads were almost impassable in the springtime from drifts and potholes, the depth of which can hardly be imagined today. On this particular day, the potholes were filled with water and one of the carriages upset. A passenger was a young lady lately from Scotland and dressed in the height of fashion.

The lady looked with dismay on her ruined silks and soiled furs, and, really frightened, she called to the Chief, whom she saw approaching,

“Oh, Mr. MacNab, extract me!”

“Put ‘Mister’ in your pocket, madam,” said the Chief, his dignity wounded at being called “Mister”.

He did help her out. Noblesse oblige, I suppose.

A Legend Passes On

2005 marked the passing of a true fishing legend – Elwood “Buck” Perry. He died August 12 at his home in Taylorsville, N. C. at the age of 90.

Buck Perry invented the Spoonplug in 1946. As he said, it looked like “a shoehorn that’s been tromped on by a horse.” Buck is generally credited with having invented “structure fishing”; the migration of fish during the day and the seasons, underwater topography, weather, water conditions (stained vs. clear), etc.

It is said that he discovered the “profound fishing truth” of the advisability of dragging a lure, whether a Spoonplug, a jig, or a plastic worm, so that it bounces on the bottom. He developed seven sizes and 35 colours of Spoonplugs. The different weights meant that a “spoonplugger” could always be sure that he had a lure that would reach and bounce off bottom. This also allowed the “spoonplugger” to get some sense of what the bottom was – hard, soft, and weedy, etc. The speed at which the “spoonplugger” trolled was also important; Buck advocated trying some pretty high speeds to keep a plug from fouling and he marketed his own line of trolling rods and trolling line, marked in different colours for easy and replicable depth control.

Simply put, his theory was that the big fish dwell in deeper water but occasionally move to shallower depths, following regular routes. Successful anglers fish at the right place at the right time at the right depth and the right speed.

He was a hell of a marketing man, too. At a time when there were lots of well-known lures on the market, designed to catch fishermen, Buck came up with the risky idea of traveling the country, and giving public demonstrations of how effective his lure was. As an example, on July 24, 1954, before dozens of witnesses, he cast a silver Spoonplug 30 times and caught 30 bass, which must be some sort of informal record.

“I believe I could have caught 100,” he told reporters.

In 1957, he visited a supposedly “fished out” lake with two Chicago writers. They marveled in print over his success, and Spoonplugs took off.

A lot of his articles expounding this theory were published in **Fishing Facts** magazine. I remember reading them very carefully because they were a marked departure from the usual “travelogues” that you read in **Field and Stream**, **Outdoor Life** and **Sports Afield**. In later years, the **In-Fisherman** moved to the same analytical format as **Fishing Facts**. It built on Perry’s work and actually extended it.

In 1973, Buck published a book, called “**Spoonplugging: Your Guide to Lunker Catches**”. In 1981, he came out with a nine volume home study series for the serious “spoonplugger”. I remember reading about the annual conventions of “spoonpluggers” at which they would meet at some southern U.S. lake, fish a lot, talk a lot, and listen to their idol, Buck Perry.

In 2000, **In-Fisherman** named Buck Perry to the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Elwood “Buck” Perry: July 10, 1915 – August 12, 2005 – a legend in his own time.

IDIOT SIGHTING

1. At a good-bye lunch for an old co-worker who was leaving the company due to “downsizing, the manager burred cheerfully, “This is fun! We should do this more often.”

Not a word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that “deer in the headlights” stare.

2. My son works with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and, for the life of her, couldn’t understand why her computer system wouldn’t turn on.

Bumper Stickers

“Next time you think you’re perfect, try walking on water.”

“If you can read this, I lost my boat.”

“I’m not an alcoholic, I’m a drunk. Alcoholics go to meetings.”

“It’s a fact – scum rises to the top.”

“Four out of five cannibals agree that vegetarians taste better.”

“Of all the things I’ve lost, I miss my mind the most.”

“If you object to logging, try wiping your rear with plastic.”

Leader Material vs. Line

I’ve often wondered what the real difference was between using some of the new fluorocarbon mono leader material rather than the similar line material for things like making worm harnesses. I came across the following little article on Seaguar that throws some light on the topic.

For Seaguar, the Leader Material is held to a tighter tolerance. It has better knot strength and better sensitivity over a line like Seaguar Carbon Pro. When you need a line that is lighter than the fish you are fighting, let’s say, a salmon, or when downsizing line, knot strength is very important. When rigging with 4 pound test for walleye, you would want both knot strength and sensitivity. These would be good reasons to choose Leader Material.

Carbon Pro, a lower cost line, has better abrasion resistance and better impact strength. When making 12-2- lbs worm harnesses or leaders for crankbaits and spoons, abrasion resistance is high on the list of desirable characteristics. This is especially true in zebra mussel infested waters.

Below is a link to a selection chart from Seaguar.

<http://www.xtackle.com/Seaguar%20Comparison%20chart.pdf>

Bring 'Em Back Alive!

Livewell systems aren't really a concern to a group of "catch and release" specialists like ourselves, but it's still worth knowing how to keep those few fish destined for the table in prime condition. Bass are members of the sunfish family, a group of fishes tolerant of high water temperatures and low oxygen levels. Walleye are much less tolerant of low oxygen and high water temperatures, and are harder to keep healthy in a livewell.

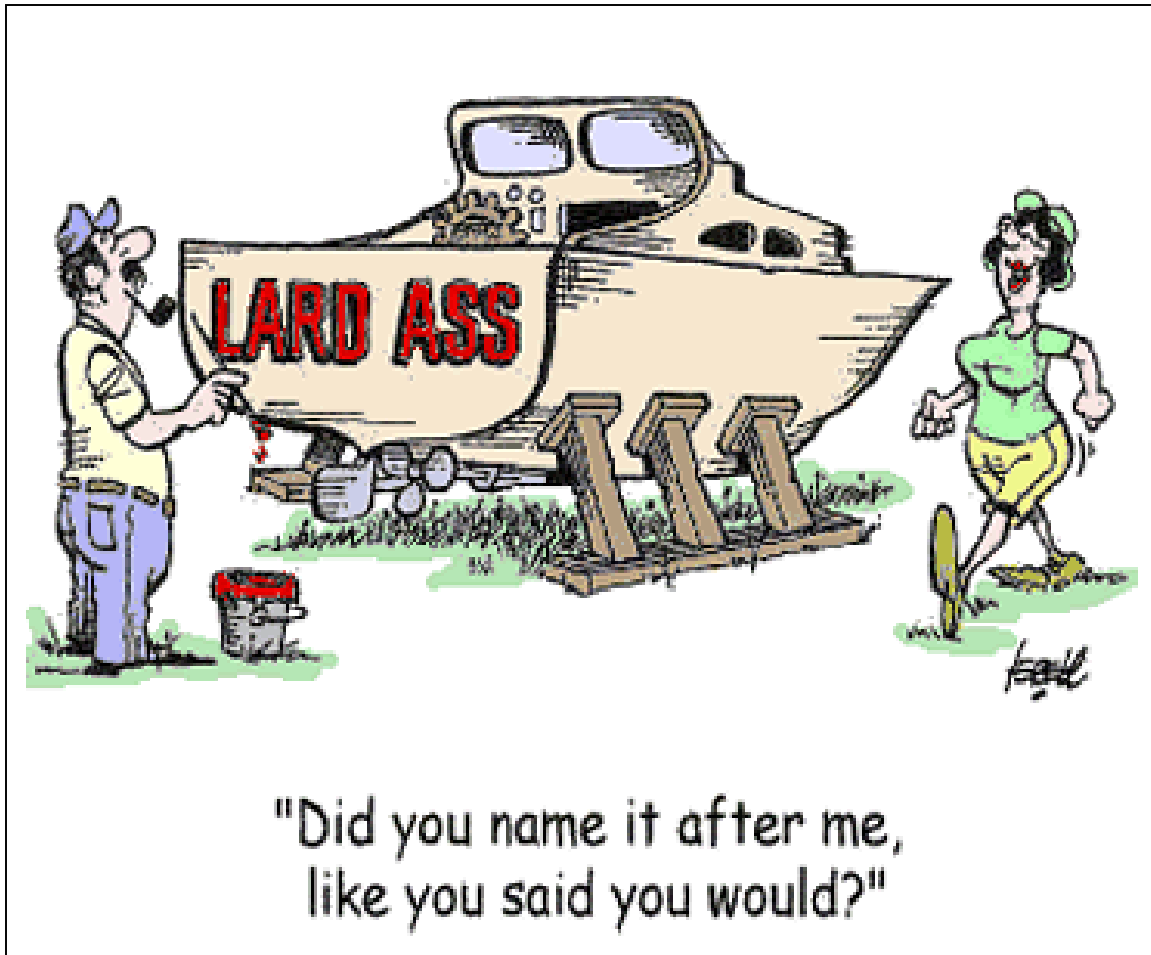
Here are five tactics recommended for keeping bass and walleye alive in your well.

1. Continuously run the freshwater aeration system to introduce new water into the system. In hot weather, don't use timed aerators; leave the pumps on from the time the first fish is placed into the well until it is removed back at the dock.
2. Lower the livewell's temperature by adding ice. Keep a minimum of two bags of ice in a separate cooler. Introduce the ice to the livewell slowly. Don't worry about introducing chlorine via the melting ice; freezing removed the chlorine from the water.
3. Use an oxygen-injection system. These add oxygen concentrations as high as 99 percent into the water system, much more than the 21 percent via ambient air from traditional aeration systems.
4. Add salt to the water to achieve a 0.05 percent solution. A rate of 1/3 cup of non-iodized salt per 5 gallons of water is standard for achieving that concentration.
5. Use water conditioners made for livewells. Most contain methyl blue, a compound that allows water to hold more oxygen, as well as other chemicals that help relax the fish and protect their mucus coating.

Studies have shown that walleye may require as much as three times the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water to remain in tip-top condition. This has lead professional walleye tournaments to restrict bag limits to five walleye to avoid strain on the healthy carrying capacity of common livewells.

Livewells located near the stern of the boat keep fish from being battered when crossing open water and in rough conditions. Features like radius corners and padded, tight-fitting lids, and wells equipped with baffles and fed by transom water pickups also help minimize fish stress.

A walleye that meets its maker on the cutting board is going to taste a whole lot fresher than a fish that expired in the livewell or at the end of a stringer half a day ago.



A man with just seconds to live!

Courtesy of Sandy Grant.

Even Jim wasn't that bold (and besides, it wouldn't have been true).

No, he called his boat "**HMCS Caroline**".

That was a gallant touch. I had badly misjudged Jim, not realizing that he was such a romantic guy. See, us Bell retirees really are something special.

I note that Ian has NEVER named his boat; no, not even his canoe. He could call it the "Canoodler", or something equally romantic. I'm sure Ann would appreciate the gesture.