

NEWSLETTER

Meeting Location

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

March means the Annual Elections.

*Come on out and campaign like hell-
my vote can be bought (nudge, nudge,
wink, wink; say no more).*

MARCH MEETING THURSDAY, Mar 2

Topics:

1. **Annual Elections _ Jim
wants me to say that he's
running for Prez again.**
2. **Info Sharing: - bring your
favourite fishing books,
videos, etc., and tell us why
they're good (or not)**

**Coaching Tip For Young Guys –
PLAY HOCKEY LIKE A GIRL!**

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Miscellaneous Mutterings

The MNR is still on its News Release
Communique blitz. The latest of which I
am aware is dated February 9, 2006. It is
a “good news” document, using carefully
chosen and soothing words. I quote
selectively (my italics):

“The Ontario government is seeking
public comment in proposed new
ecologically based fishing regulations that
would *further protect the province's
biodiversity*”, Natural Resources Minister
David Ramsay announced today.”

“We are streamlining the regulations and
simplifying the large list of exceptions
which were difficult for anglers to know
and follow,” said Ramsay. “We are also
*creating more fishing opportunities by
extending seasons or removing unnecessary
season closures* where there aren't
sustainability issues for native fish
populations.”

“*The New Fisheries Management Zones are
based on ecological and social factors and
easy-to-find boundaries.* The ministry has
set out recommended seasons and creel
and size limits for all regulated sport fish
species for 2007 for the new zones. *Most
anglers will not notice much difference* **but**
*in some cases the alteration in boundaries
will mean changes in fishing seasons and
fishing limits.*”

View the full notice at

www.ene.gov.on.ca/samples/search/ and
enter Registry Number XB06E6001

Musky Tournaments & The Ecological & Social Framework

As most, if not all, of the Honourable Members (hear, hear!) are aware, MNR established a trophy musky regulatory framework for the Rideau and the Ottawa Rivers. I would like to think that this was an ecologically sound approach to fisheries management, especially for such a relatively rare and slow-growing tourist and fishing asset as *Esox Masquinongy*.

Fishermen have been aware of the fine musky fishing in the Rideau for over a century. You can find articles and references going back before 1900, extolling this area. The Ottawa musky fishery was relatively unknown 30 years ago — even to the MNR.

So far, so good. And with the new *ecological and social framework* so eloquently described by Steve Payne of the MNR Communications Services Branch and the fine sentiments put into the mouth of the Minister (*What? Doesn't he have any ideas of his own?*), the musky populations of Ontario have nothing to fear from exploitation. Go back to sleep – your MNR is working for you.

Your sleep may be uneasy when you hear about a new “non-initiative” of the MNR that has been brought to my attention. An enterprising private group is proposing to start up a competitive series of musky tournaments in Ontario. These would be patterned, no doubt, on the competitive bass tournaments so beloved of communities across Ontario.

The real and significant difference is in the size of the fish populations and the impact of catching and stressing these fish during the summer months. What? Did you think they were planning to hold the events in October – November so lower water temperatures would reduce stress levels? Silly, silly boy!

Why is this of interest to the OFC, you ask?

Muskies Canada has tried to approach the MNR on this matter to determine how the tournaments will be organized and what sort of regulatory oversight or special regulations that the MNR has in mind. In order to be helpful, Muskies Canada drafted up a set of regulations for MNR consideration.

My understanding of the situation at present is that MNR has simply brushed off Muskies Canada and told them to work it out with the group proposing the tournaments. This is an amazing “management” approach – one that I hope is not what we can expect from the new “ecological and social framework” spun out by the Communications Services Branch of the MNR. I think that Muskies Canada should consider “going public” with all and any tools at their disposal. Maybe the Ontario Tourism Minister likes the impact of this “laissez-faire” framework?

HEALTH QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SESSION

Disclaimer:

I don't know what doctor wrote this and I don't recall who sent it to me.

Q. I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life– is this true?

A. Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it ... don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not let you live longer – that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster.

Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q. Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A. You must grasp logical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and Corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need Grain? Eat Chicken.

Beef is also a good source of Green Leafy Vegetable (field grass). And pork can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.

Q. Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A. No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine; that means they take the water out of the fruity bit, so you get even more of the goodness that way.

(I KNEW there was a good reason for my liking to savour a fine brandy while I sit quietly contemplating the deeper meaning of things – like the ecological & social framework.)

Beer is also made out of grain and green leafy vegetables (hops). Bottoms Up!

(Maybe I should diversify my alcohol intake?)

Q. How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A. This is dead easy – I'm surprised that you ask. Anyway, for the numerically challenged out there, let me explain.

If you have a body, and if you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc. See, simple!

Q. What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A. This is another simple one – in theory. Ignore the pernicious “NO PAIN – NO GAIN!” In practice, it gets more complicated, especially if you're married.

If you're single, then I can't think of any advantage – sorry. My philosophy would be – No Pain ... Good! If you're married, then you must balance two sources of pain – **ONE**: staying in the house and putting up with the nagging to get exercise: **TWO** – getting out of the house for exercise. Once out, you can exercise quietly on your alcohol intake and avoiding cardiovascular wear and tear. Only you can decide – suck it up, like a man!

NOTE: We're a **FISHING CLUB – NOT AN EXERCISE CLUB.**

NEW FISHING WRINKLE

A sincere but misguided disciple of Izaak Walton has struck on a new idea for catching fish without hook or line. As he has a patent pending on the invention, he is not afraid to give the secret to the public.

He will place a mirror in the water of the lake or stream, and in front of it a sheet of plate glass slanting at an angle of 45 degrees. The bait will be placed between the two. Still with me?

As the fish approaches, he will see his image in the mirror, and thinking it is another fish that is after the coveted morsel, will act promptly by making a quick dash for the bait, striking the plate glass and sliding into a net placed at the top.

Now this sounds like the sort of thing that would fit right into the “*ecologically and socially based framework*” that Minister Ramsay would like to see adopted. It could be presented to the First Nations for consideration, although it is likely to be rejected, since it isn’t the *spearing and netting approach to fishing so dear to the heart of traditionalists*. Perhaps the **Natural Resources Minister** could talk to the **Indian Affairs Minister** and work this out? Oh, you say that they can’t get together – some sort of scheduling conflict? Well, certainly a conflict of some kind – maybe of interest?

FINALLY – A Nice Lawyer Story...And It Fits In With the Health Q & A

One afternoon a wealthy lawyer was sitting in his shiny big limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop, and he got out to investigate.

He asked one man, “Why are you eating grass?”

“We don’t have any money for food,” the poor man replied. We HAVE TO EAT grass.” Shocked, the lawyer said, “Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I’ll feed you.”

“But, sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree.” “Bring them along,” the lawyer replied. Turning to the other poor man, he said, “You come with us, too.”

The second man said, “But, sir, I also have a wife and SIX children with me!” “Bring them all!” the lawyer answered grandly. They all jammed into the huge limousine.

Once underway, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer and said, “Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you.”

Genuinely touched, the lawyer replied, “Glad to do it. You’ll really love my place. The grass is almost a foot high!”

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE?

The following material is excerpted from “Caught in the Middle”, an article published in the latest issue of **Outdoor Canada Fishing 2006**.

I am NOT trying to demonize anyone, least of all the “low MNR pay grades”, but I think it is fair to say that the current “management approach” of the MNR senior management and their political bosses has a long way to go to reach 20th century “best practices”. It is also fair to say that there are a few bright spots.

“Sport anglers and their lobby groups say fisheries are not being managed effectively. First Nations bands say they have inherent rights to the fisheries, and to profit from them. And federal, provincial and territorial governments that, in theory, are entrusted to manage the resource for everyone, say they have one helluva balancing act to conduct at the bargaining table.”

Lake of the Woods is an example where native commercial netters do not report their catch or by-catch, unlike non-native commercial netters. The MNR says it “is working on it.”

Georgian Bay sportfishing groups were promised a meeting with Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay when the MNR was negotiating a new fisheries agreement with the Chippewas. No surprise — no meeting with Ramsay, just an announcement that an agreement had been signed to expand the netting grounds.

Even native lobbyists admit that cooperative management — where all groups work together — can work well. They point to Lake Erie.

The US has working models of cooperative fisheries management.

Lake Temagami has a working cooperative management structure — not the MNR’s first choice of approach. So who is it in MNR who decides what management approach to take in a given situation?

It seems that it’s all a matter of trust. I think that we know who the MNR does NOT trust, and it’s not the First Nations.

Enjoy life in the “brave new world” of the new “ecological and social framework”.

PS: I don’t want to upset any senior managers in MNR, but may I humbly note that some Ontario Universities have well-regarded Schools of Management. Having talked to a couple of faculty members recently, they are always on the lookout for case studies. The MNR fisheries management approach appears to offer rich material for teaching and research work. Perhaps **Management 101** should be compulsory, along with **Gender** or **First Nations Sensitivity**, for senior managers and policy advisors?



Just a question of values, I guess.



Now that's a flying fish!



A genuine question of theology – answer?



Hertz – Rent-A-Terrorist?

Are there any plumbers in the Club that might be able to help?

