

NEWSLETTER

Thursday, April 5 Meeting Location
The Legion Hall, Westboro Branch
- 389 Richmond Road, between
Churchill and Roosevelt Avenues.

Parking is on neighbouring streets.

Start time –7 pm.

Coming Club Fishes

NONE!

NADA!

RIEN DU TOUT!

NO MO'

APRIL MEETING Legion

THURSDAY, April 5 – 7 pm

What Are We Doing In 2008?

1. Meet & Greet – Grip & Grin
2. RADICAL Club Fish Schedule Proposal – Revisited ???
3. Elections

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Miscellaneous Mutterings

RADICAL CLUB FISH SCHEDULE

Yes, here I am again, muttering about the Club Fish Schedule.

I was astonished to hear that the Club Fish Schedule was found lacking at the March meeting. I await with great interest the replacement, and the plans to stimulate attendance.

Our hardworking executive (worth every bit of the high salaries) is up for re-election. Jim has told me that he will be retiring and so an opening appears for someone willing and able to take the Club to new heights (or revisit the old heights).

For myself, since I am but an “ink-stained scribbler”, I shall continue to continue in the current style until the new Executive decides that they want something different. I promise not to get any better – I cannot promise not to get worse.

In any event, we look forward to a stimulating and vigorous debate, fueled by a bit of John Barleycorn. Is it all worth it? Hard to say.

A Game Warden's Lot Is Not A Happy One

In the early 1900s, Fishery Inspector J.C. Judd of Morton seemed to be everywhere, promoting conservation, good sportsmanship, and denouncing poachers, netters, and game hogs. He was enthusiastically praised in the local newspapers for catching and fining those who broke the fish and game laws. Judd was tireless in urging local communities to set up angling associations where public-spirited citizens could keep an eye on things. He was credited for setting up associations in Perth, Kemptville, and other Corridor communities, and trying to encourage visitors to come and enjoy the fine fishing along the Rideau.

How did he manage to be in so many places and to detect so many lawbreakers? I think the answer is – he couldn't be, he wasn't, and he didn't. So – who could be, was and did?

To address this question, let's back up a bit. As I describe in my new book, "Fish Tales", concerned citizens subscribed to a fund to buy the steam yacht, "Eva Belle", from Mr. H.W. Lockwood of Westport. If the Ontario government wouldn't provide the tools for the game wardens to do the job, then these citizens would provide them. The government agreed to pay salaries and fuel. The "Eva Belle" went on patrol in 1901.*

The National Archives in Ottawa has the original rough 1901 journal kept by the skipper of the Eva Belle. ** There seems to have been a crew of three – the skipper, a pilot (sometimes), and an engineer.

These were the people who were doing most of the game warden work. In fact, a lot of the dragging for nets was done from a small rowboat, often at night and in foul weather. The journal laconically recounts carrying the small boat to the Tay Canal to look for illegal duck hunters. Many days were spent rowing around lakes up and down the Rideau.

From time to time, the Eva Belle would go to Morton to pick up Inspector Judd. This would mark trips down to Kingston Mills, Dog Lake, Cranberry Lake and the areas where illegal shipments of fish to the US were known to take place.

In the summer of 1901, Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries Bastedo and his family arrived, and the Eva Belle took them to Garrett's Rest. Over the next two weeks, when there was fair weather, Judd and the Deputy Commissioner

assiduously inspected the neighbourhood as far north as Smiths Falls. When it was time to leave, the Eva Belle took the Bastedo family to Smiths Falls to catch their train for Toronto.

There are all sorts of little details that throw light on what life was like on one of these steam yachts. An early entry in the journal mentions dryly that 500 pounds of pig iron was bought (\$4.50) for ballast on June 14 in Smiths Falls. It was placed forward – “Found boat worked much better.”

Maintenance and repairs were mentioned often. “Repairing the shaft coupling” occurred several times. On August 20th and 21st, the journal reported- “Patrol boat laid up at Westport for repairs. Worked all day and on 21st, rolling tubes on crown sheet of boiler. Boiler in good repair after above work done.” A month later, there was another journal entry – “Friday 27 at Morton weather fair. Lay at Morton to make some repairs to Boiler of yacht.”

Another update to the yacht occurred the next day. “Spent forenoon getting small coal stove in after cabin of yacht.” The Eva Belle probably used only wood stoves up until then, since there were occasional mentions of taking on part of a cord of stove wood – consistent with using the wood only for cooking and heating.

The conservation question is, “Did the Eva Belle make a difference?” From the journal and newspaper reports, the answer would have to be “Yes”. In 1901, the sight of the Eva Belle was a real deterrent – lockmasters, prominent citizens and local guides concluded that very little illegal netting or illegal duck hunting was going on while the Eva Belle was in the area.

The lesson for today’s “parked” (no fuel budget) game wardens may be – “Patrolling does make a difference.” Let’s start a “fuel subscription”.

* William Robinson of Kingston built the “Eva Belle” in 1892. It was almost 40 feet long, with an 8 foot beam and a shallow depth of less than 3 feet. It was sold to the Department of Fisheries in 1905.

Edward Forbes Bush, **Commercial Navigation on the Rideau Canal, 1832 – 1961**. History and Archaeology 54. National Historic Parks and Sites Branch. Parks Canada. Environment Canada. pp v – 288 pp 183-4.

** Rough Journal of a fisheries inspector on the Rideau Canal, 1901”. Library and Archives Canada. Reference Number MG9-D8-68 Volume 30.

NOTE: From time to time, Rick Newton sends me material that loosely relates to fishing. There are lots of great jokes and pictures(unprintable) that I have to scan carefully to protect the members from unwholesome thoughts.

The following material is certified safe for member consumption.

Keep the good stuff coming, Rick!

Words of Wisdom

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Nothing is fool-proof to a sufficiently talented fool.

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blamed it on the cost of living.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

Sign seen in a veterinarian's office: "All children left unattended will be given a free kitten."

Subject: How to stop being bugged by relatives at weddings if you're single:

Blue-haired old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next"

They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

Some oneliners.....

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.

Honk if you love peace and quiet.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

You can't have everything, where would you put it?

The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

It was recently discovered that research causes cancer in rats.

Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter since nobody listens.

I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

A psychiatrist is a person who will give you expensive answers that your wife will give you for free.

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

Why do they lock gas station toilets? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

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**Amen to
that!**



Ya gotta do whatever it takes, I guess, to reach a certain balance in life.