

Whiteshell Echo

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President's Report

Ted Ferens

Our first experience with spraying the biological insecticide Bt to control the forest tent caterpillar infestation was generally successful. This was evident when driving through areas of complete defoliation and then entering cottage areas that were aerial sprayed. It was like entering an oasis.

There were however, problems experienced in some areas for undetermined reasons. Nevertheless, the majority of cottagers said that it was worth the cost and they would apply for it again, if needed in the future.

The numerous remains of caterpillars that were observed a few days following spraying, and later the decreased number of cocoons gave an indication that the Bt was effective in controlling the infestation. This was a welcome relief from the vast amount of work undertaken by cottagers to remove the cocoons last year.

In areas where infestation was advanced with a fair amount of defoliation Bt was effective in killing the caterpillars before they were able to form their cocoons.

The WCA has requested that Manitoba Conservation undertake any future aerial spraying to control the forest tent caterpillar infestation, as they are in a better position to ensure that it is executed successfully. The aerial spraying could be handled in the same manner as other services that Parks provides to Cottagers, and would be reflected in the service costs with other items such as garbage collection and road maintenance. (See "Aerialin" Page 3)

Exhibitors take note

A new location has been chosen for the WCA's annual meeting next year, and exhibitors are welcome to put up displays for the price of a door prize and a nominal setup fee. (See Page 6)

In this issue...

Aerial Spraying Sequence Reviewed	3
Black Bear Feature	5
Growing Shiitake Mushrooms.....	9
Fire Department Report	14
Park Update	15
Trans Canada Trail Construction.....	17
Around the Lakes	18
RCMP Report	24
Cottage Cuisine.....	25
Garbage Gab.....	26



Volunteers (l to r) Darryl Bohart, Dick Blais and Ken Krawchuk deep-fry delicious battered pickeral donated by the Manitoba Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation for approximately 375 visitors who attended the July 21 official opening of the Whiteshell Fish Hatchery at West Hawk Lake.

Photos by Diane Kroeker

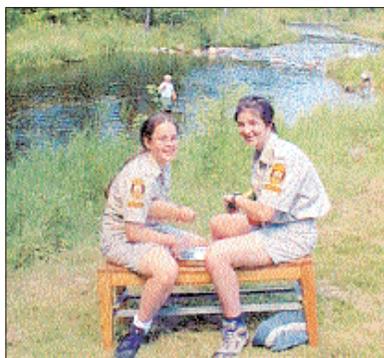
New Visitor Centre at Whiteshell Fish Hatchery interprets life cycles of fish



Hatchery manager Don Bilen Duke (front) with Lorimer Thompson (l), chief of fish habitat for Conservation Manitoba, and cottager John Toone of Fish Futures Inc.

A new interpretive Visitor Centre opened July 21 at the Whiteshell Fish Hatchery with 375 visitors who enjoyed beans, baked potatoes and pickeral for lunch.

The project was spearheaded by Fish Futures Inc, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring a continuing healthy and abundant fish hatchery, with cooperation from Conservation Manitoba (Fisheries and Parks branches) and the Fisheries Enhancement Initiative. Hatchery fingerlings go to lakes throughout Manitoba. Fly fishermen knee-deep in the Whiteshell River running past the hatchery were having a heyday reeling in trout from the river.



Park interpreters Beth Hamilton (l) and Erika Young explain how fish spawn with In the background fly fisherman Alfred Aug of Winnipeg reels them in.



Past WCA President Tom Walker, a Board Member of Fish Futures Inc, explains trout display to Falcon Lake cottager Val Feilberg and Kynan, age 4.

JOIN THE WCA AND HAVE THE WHITESHELL ECHO MAILED TO YOU ALL YEAR!