

Conservation Corner

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by Brian G. Wright, Conservation Officer, Wadena District

The month of May seems to have passed by very quickly. Our farmer friends are finishing up their seeding activities and the kids only have one month of school left before summer holidays. We do have up to date brochures listing various campgrounds and resorts in the province for planning your summer vacation.

When I look back on previous issues of Conservation Corner I find that I often talk about how busy the past month has been and this past month is no exception. We started the month by planning and organizing an open house at our office. We set up several displays and had coffee and doughnuts available. A total of fifty-five people visited with us and we believe that it was a very worthwhile day. We are planning to have a similar day next year and we will probably hold it in April during National Wildlife Week. We will also hold our open house during the day as we did this year but we will also extend the open house into the evening for those of you that are busy in the day time. Watch Conservation Corner in February and March 1994 for more details.

This past month I was also on an over head fire team for the province. As a team member I go on call for two months of the summer and should there be any large project fires a team of six members is called to the fire. This team would then remain on that fire until it was declared out. During the month of May I worked for twelve days on two fires burning in the Chitek Lake area. These fires burned more than 10,000 acres of forest that will take many years to grow again. Burning conditions this year are very bad and I would caution all you people using the forest and parks to be very careful with cigarettes, matches and campfires. Only a moment's carelessness can destroy many acres of forest and all the habitat for a multitude of animals and birds.

The deadline for sending big game draw applications has now passed. Results of the big game draw will be available July 21, 1993. The information telephone number is 787-2347. Collect calls will not be accepted. Good luck!

On June 9th, 1993 I will again be participating in the law enforcement torch run to raise money for the Special Olympics and some very special people. I would like to thank those people who have already sponsored me for this year. If anyone else would like to give a donation to a very worthwhile cause please let me know.

During this past month the Rural Municipality of Invermay has been taken out of the Wadena District and placed in the Preeceville District. I would like to thank those people I have worked with in that R.M. for your support and friendship and invite you to still drop in for coffee now and then. The phone number for the Preeceville office is 547-2936.

In closing this segment of Conservation Corner I would like to talk a little bit about our fisheries resource. While I am busy writing this column, Conservation Officer Marty Halpape is busy stocking 1.5 million walleye fry in Big and Little Fishing Lakes. Each year lakes in this area and around the province are stocked with fish and managed on a very intensive basis to keep fish populations healthy. However, it seems like most of you the public don't give fisheries conservation the priority that it deserves. Each year more than 200,000 people enjoy

of anglers each year is more than three times the number of hunters yet the number of T.I.P. calls received about fishing violations is less than 3% of the calls. I believe that people may not realize the importance of our fisheries resource and be treating it as a second class citizen compared to wildlife. This year we have had to implement size restrictions in the whole province to protect the breeding stocks. Please don't take fishing for granted! Should you witness a violation of the fisheries act please report it to the T.I.P. line or the nearest Conservation Officer. We must protect this valuable resource.

June 12 and 13, 1993 is this year's family fishing weekend. A licence is not required to fish on these two days except in Prince Albert National Park. All other regulations and limits apply. Check the 93-94 Anglers' Guide for further

details. "Catch the Spirit of Fishing"

* Did You Know *

- Walleye spawn in the spring when water temperatures reach 3 degrees to 6 degrees C.

- Walleye do not spawn until 4 to 5 years of age but lay 30,000 to 70,000 eggs per year.

- The eggs are promptly abandoned and many fall victim to predators.

- Those that survive hatch in 1 to 3 weeks and the surviving fry grow to 5 to 6 inches by fall.

Should you witness a fisheries or wildlife violation, please call the Wadena office of Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management at 338-2452 or the Turn In Poachers (TIP) number at 1-800-667-7561 and an officer will respond to your call.

Think safety this June as you enjoy the great outdoors.

Graduation ceremony special for 3 students

For three Estevan students, will remember June 11 as being a special day in their lives. Glen-mary From, James Kautz and Jeffrey Mitchell became the three students to graduate from Hope Christian Academy graduation ceremony was

tion, helpfulness and kindness. Glen-mary said that it is so values on which moral values built. "These values determine we are and what our character. These values are honesty, obedience, self-control, love, patience, kindness, long suffering,