



GUIDE REPORTS

Look back at 1977

By SMOKEY TRUMBLYE

Each year at this time we like to take time out and do a little reminiscing while at the same time evaluate some of the happenings of the rapid ending year.

Using a "Licensed Guide", my first thoughts naturally involve activities in the out of doors. Looking back over the month 1977 started out right from day one as being a good year for most outdoor enthusiasts. Certainly, this was true in all areas pertaining to fishermen, hunters and their interests.

Snow skiers and snowmobilers did not fair too well during the winter of 1977-78, because of the very mild weather with little snow on the hills. However, this winter of 1977-78 holds promise of compensation that should more than make up the inadequacy of the white stuff last winter.

BANNER YEAR

Fishermen (all methods of angling) had a banner year during 1977. This above average success was not all through the year. During our peak tourist season of July and August we enjoyed good catches all year long. Most anglers also witnessed larger fish in their creels than they had in previous years.

I feel the explanation for this better than usual fishing in all areas this year, can be attributed to two reasons.

1. The summer of 1976 was uncommon to say the least. The weather was inclement, which is always adverse to good fishing.
 2. As a result of the unfavorable weather conditions, fewer fishermen pursued their interests and consequently less fish were taken from our lakes. This also accounts for the larger fish being taken during the current year, because they had another full year of eating and growing before they were caught.
- Another contributing factor that resulted in a banner year for fishermen in 1977, was the super ideal weather all through the year. During our peak tourist season of July and August we enjoyed perfect holiday weather. Clear, sunny skies with the air accompanying hot temperatures, permitted a daily interest in fishing, not only by visitors, but by local fishermen as well. In fact, this year's nice weather erased from the minds of holidaymakers, the complete reverse of the previous year. All our business people who are involved with tourism such as resort owners, motel owners and campground attendants will verify this. The number of requests for reservations next year also confirms the intent of holidaymakers returning.

POLICE OR HERITAGE?

Governmental statistics tell us tourism is fast overtaking all other industries as British Columbia's top revenue earner. This being the case, we all must do our best to further develop tourism. Our natural resources in this field are going to be managed very carefully especially our travel industry and conservation programs. This is where you and I enter the picture. We can police our elected representatives and department heads in these branches of government, that is what democracy is all about. If we see something going wrong with our heritage, do something about it. Elected representatives and department heads are not permanent fixtures and can be replaced from our jobs just as easily as you and I can be replaced from our jobs for being incompetent.

HUNTERS FAIR WELL TOO

1977 was one of the better years for most hunters in the province of British Columbia. This was partly due to the very mild winter of 1976-77 when there was little or no winter kill of our wildlife. The hunter kill last year was far below average when compared to previous seasons. As a result, wildlife increased their numbers well above normal years.

This increase in wildlife populace during the 1977-78 season will not be a concern to our fish and wildlife managers because the hunter harvest this year in areas of concern, has been termed "adequate" in the interests of their survival.

Lately, the new method of regions being divided into numerous units has permitted our Fish and Wildlife branches to better manage and develop specific areas. Wildlife in each unit can be watched and any problems involving their survival can be corrected before it mushrooms out of control, and jeopardizes the species survival chances in that unit.

GUIDE TIP

Never use the roof of your car as a shelf when showing away your fishing or hunting gear. You could put something there and forget it when you dry off. I broke the hub after a rifle I treasured clattered to the ground on the Monashee Highway as I drove away.

Best hours for hunting are Tuesday 2:20 until 5:20 p.m., Sunday 9:35 until 10:35 a.m.

To all my readers - A Very Happy New Year!

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1972
Ice fishermen on Swan Lake have been reporting good catches over the past few days.

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TIGERS HONORED

Several members of the Canadian champion Vernon Lodge Tigers lacrosse club were honored at their annual banquet on Wednesday night. From left, back row: Rick Horley, player combining dedication and plying ability; Bill Kirkland, scoring champion; and Graydon Brown, most deserving player. Front row: Danny Holts, best defensive player; Charlie Brinkham, most improved player; and Jamie McKenzie, contribution to the game. Missing are Most Valuable Player, G. J. Walmsey, and Tiger of the Year, trainer Brent Nolan.

Daily News

SPORTS

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VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, DEC. 29, 1977

SPORTS BRIEFS

- BANTAMS BEAT**
North Shore Winter Club won 2-1 in the semifinals of the Burnaby International Bantam Hockey Tournament today. The loss eliminates Vernon from further competition. Brad Moore scored all three goals for the locals, however, defenceman Bobby Morden was named Vernon's player of the game.
- FIREMEN WIN**
Vernon Firefighters edged Canucks 2-1 in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action Wednesday night at the Civic Arena. The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period and Canucks held a 2-1 edge after the second.
- REFS NEEDED**
Hockey, volleyball, and basketball referees are needed for programs sponsored by the Vernon Parks and Recreation District. Officials in the Pleasant Valley Hockey League earn \$12.50 per game. Volleyball and basketball refs average about \$8 per hour. Anyone interested is asked to phone 545-6035.
- BOYS' BASKETBALL**
Registration deadline for the Vernon Minor Boys' Basketball League has been set at Jan. 1. Any boys in grades 10-12, except those already playing on a junior secondary team, are eligible to play. Games start Jan. 12.

130 bowlers take part in Father and Son event

More than 130 bowlers took part in the recent Father and Son Tournament held at Lincoln Lanes.

In the Jct category, Marcel Babineau teamed up with his dad to go 150 pins over average. In second spot were Ted and dad Tony Darren Strechniuk and his father won the bantam division with 110 over average. Five ahead of Michael O'Flynn and dad.

In junior play, dad and Cameron Beach were a whopping 200 over average. Well back in second spot were Rick Bloch and his pop

For tough driving conditions see Peters Tirecraft for chains and tractionizing!

AT VERNON AREAS

Ski records broken

Vernon's two ski areas, Silver Star and Tillikum Valley, are experiencing the busiest years in their history.

Silver Star, the Okanagan's most popular area, has shattered single day attendance records twice this week. On Tuesday, between 1000 and 1500 skiers were on the mountain. However, that figure never exceeded Wednesday, when between 4600 and 4900 skiers enjoyed the near-perfect conditions.

Despite the huge crowds, Silver Star Manager Woody Woodman told the Daily News the lift lines have not been too long.

Woodman said, "At the busiest time of the day, on the busiest lift, the line-up is just over 20 minutes."

All eight lifts are in operation, with a capacity of 7400 skiers per hour. Woodman said, "If we continue to attract this type of crowd at Christmas, we'll have to look at further expansion."

During the Christmas holidays an estimated 30,000 skiers will hit the slopes at Silver Star.

Woodman said, "I expect Saturday will be our last really busy day. Then, we'll get back to normal, at least for a while."

AT TILLIKUM
Meanwhile the two surface lifts at Tillikum Valley have been kept busy.

The single day attendance record was broken Tuesday when more than 600 skiers were on hand. On Wednesday there was a slight drop with about 500 enthusiasts.

Tillikum Manager Sandy Boyd said he attributes the large crowds to the snow in low areas.

Boyd said, "The out-of-town skiers are attracted by skiing conditions. However, the Vernon people seem to get the fever when it snows down low. As far as I'm concerned, the snow in town is just as important to us as the snow on the mountain because it gets people interested."

Despite the abundance of skiers, Boyd said the longest line-ups are no more than five minutes - usually only about two minutes.

Wikings add Neeld to blue line corps

Vernon Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye announced today defenceman Rob Neeld will be in the line-up Friday night when his club hosts Kamloops Chiefs.

Neeld was traded to Vernon along with younger brother John, three weeks ago by Kelowna Buckaroos. John, who was injured directly while Hob was given a five-game trial with Medicine Hat, was traded to the Chiefs by Tigers. Rob threatened to quit hockey because he didn't like the Chiefs, right wing Rob McLean, still has not received clearance to play. Vernon is still awaiting McLean's release from the Edison, Alta. Junior B team.

Kelowna leads the Interior Division with 46 points, two ahead of Penticton Vees and three more than Merritt Centennials. Kamloops is fourth with 23 points, while Kelowna leads the Chiefs and Vikings are tied for last with 12.

However, Vikings have two chances to vacate the cellar this weekend. After the Kamloops game, Vernon hosts Kelowna on Sunday, at 2 p.m.

STREAK STOPPED
In action Wednesday night, Abbotsford Flyers dumped Nanaimo Clippers 7-3 and Kamloops stopped Kelowna's winning streak at 10 games by doubling the Bucks 4-2.

On the coast, Nanaimo is tied for top spot with Bellingham Blazers with 38 points and Langley leads the cellar with 24.

In the only game tonight, Nanaimo is at Abbotsford.

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Sweater switch works for Cincy

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Cincinnati Stingers' coach Jacques Demers believes clothes make the team, so he ordered his Hockey Association team wear their black "road" jerseys at home.

The trick worked. The Stingers beat Indianapolis Racers 5-4 in overtime Wednesday night.

"I've been saying we're nervous at home. I told the trainers to put them out on the road," said Demers. The Stingers now are 6-8 at home but their record is 7-3.

The victory was Cincinnati's fifth straight against the rival Racers, who have beaten the Stingers only once this season.

In the only other WHA game Wednesday night, the touring Soviet All-Star team downed Houston Aeros 7-3 in exhibition play.

The Stingers scored three third-period goals, including one in the final seconds to tie the game and force the extra period.

"When you're going bad, everything goes bad," said Indianapolis coach Ron Ingram, whose Racers haven't won in their last nine outings. "We played well... and with 50 seconds to go, they're banging it and stopping it around and it goes in. That one and the goal that was it - just the kind of breaks we've been getting. When you're losing, nothing goes right."

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RAMS FINISHED?
LOS ANGELES (AP) - Quarterback Joe Namath, who came to Los Angeles Rams this season after a brilliant career with New York Jets, has probably played his last game of professional football.

Though he hasn't said it, Namath, 34, who didn't play in the Rams' final 11 games during the recently completed campaign, implied Wednesday that he'll probably call it an end to his 15 years in the National Football League.

WCHLIE
REGINA (CP) - Doug Wickens' second goal of the game at the 18:15 mark of the third period Wednesday night gave Regina a 4-4 tie with Brandon Wheat Kings in Western Canada Hockey League action.

Pups place second

Vernon BCCEU Pups placed second in the 'A' event of a senior 'B' pup tournament this week in Salmon Arm.

After beating Armstrong 7-3 and Enderby 3-2, Vernon dropped a 6-2 decision to Osoyoos in the final.

Curtis Petersen and Michael Hanchak scored two goals each against Armstrong while Dwayne Brandt, Troy Ritchie, and Dennis Holland added singles.

In the Enderby game, Jay Stat scored the lone goal in overtime, to put Vernon in the final Holland and Hanchak were the other Vernon snipers.

In the final, Osoyoos took a 4-0 lead before the Vernon boys knew they were in a game. In the last 40 minutes, the teams exchanged goals with Holland scoring twice for the locals.

Rusty Patenaude put the Racers ahead 4-3 on a driving shot from the left side. The Stingers pulled goalie Michel Dion for a desperation six-man attack that paid off when Harry Melrose scored with 50 seconds left to tie the game at 4-4.

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