

Column Sept 6 07

We stopped into Rick Choma's new bait shop on Main Street to see how things are going. Life is certainly busy in bait world! Rick's open from 6AM-8PM selling golden shiners, fatheads (known locally as mud minnows) and dew worms (night crawlers to his US customers). "Shiners are highly sought after," Rick explains, "but mud minnows are much hardier." Successful minnow handling takes some care – especially the shiners. They're very sensitive to temperature and oxygen level, and Rick has to be especially careful when he brings them in from his weekly trip to the local trout farm where they're raised. "It's like babysitting 500 kids," he says. "A lot of minnow dealers don't even carry shiners." Moore's Bait, down the road across from Sand Road, is still in business, carrying worms only – no minnows. A fisherman himself, Rick doesn't get out as much now as he used to as a kid on the Bay of Quinte, but he did manage to win a Pro Am bass tournament a few years back with Terry Holder as his partner. "Terry's really good. He knew exactly where those fish were." As for the environmental side of things, Rick says he's already had a couple of visits from the local conservation officer – "a real nice guy" who checked his licence and his practices. Rick is all for good oversight in the bait and fishing world. His advice: Buy from a licenced dealer and never dump your leftover bait into the lake or stream.

At last week's garlic festival we saw an information booth about an important referendum coming to the provincial election ballot next month. The Mixed Member Proportional System for voting is a proposal that works toward fixing the frequent problem of a party winning a majority of seats without winning a majority of the popular vote. It's interesting that Hannes Friedli and Paul Spaar, who manned the booth, are originally from Switzerland one of the many countries that uses the proposed system. Hannes is a passionate member of the Ontario Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform, and is a font of information. He's happy to share pamphlets and brochures covering every aspect of the proposal. 374-5254 or dhfriedli@sympatico.ca. This is an important question. Get informed!

Leta Galloway's family gathered last weekend to celebrate her 83rd birthday. Sons Barrie, with his family, and Paul all the way from his job at Pamoia Hospital in Florida, joined granddaughter Angela Childs (whose birthday was the same day) to give Leta a very special party. Friends came from Kingston and as far as Ajax. Two executives from Paul's hospital even joined in the fun. Happy birthday, Leta, and many more.

Here's "Time Flies" in action: Tuesday marked the 10th anniversary of Dr. Laurel Dempsey's arrival at the Verona Medical Centre. Dr. Lynn Wilson says, "Doc Day wanted someone to come [when he retired] and stay. And she did!" We are lucky indeed to have a committed professional here in the village. Long live that concept!

Doris Ritchie reminds us that Rock Lake Seniors will meet on the Sept. 19th and not on their usual 2nd Wednesday of the month. Next month's meeting will also be postponed a week to Oct. 17th because Elections Canada is using the hall.

Benson Autoparts' annual customer appreciation barbecue is Sept. 7 from 11- 2. Brian Kellar tells us things are going really well here in Verona, so drop in to celebrate with a burger or a dog and a slice of cake.