

The Scent Of Death!



The lady camper was overcome with pity as she considered the fawn at her feet. She couldn't resist its soft bleating and those big, brown, trusting eyes, so she knelt and cradled it in her arms. Thus, the kind lady became the fawn's executioner. As soon as the baby deer was cuddled in those sympathetic arms, it was covered with the "scent of death" - the human scent which spells DANGER to keen animal noses.

Animals seldom, if ever, abandon their offspring without good reason. The mother of this seemingly deserted fawn was just out of sight, feeding on some leaves before returning to care for her young one. When she came back, her sensitive nostrils picked up a hostile odour.

Her baby was tainted. Mother instinct was replaced with fear and a strong desire for self-preservation. She would no longer nurse this sudden liability but leave it by the trail to die.

On another occasion, a Lands and Forests conservation officer, who was patrolling a northern Ontario river, looked towards the shore and saw two hunters; nothing unusual here, except one was holding a moose calf while the other photographed it. The officer immediately beached his canoe and gave the young men a one-minute lesson in conservation, but it was too late; the small moose died when its mother did not return.

Then there was the case of a family who, while driving along a wooded country

road, almost hit a bewildered fawn. It looked so frightened and forlorn they took pity on it, and thinking it would make an interesting pet, put it in the car and headed for home. However, they found that no formula agreed with the young deer which died of starvation; some perish from dysentery.

Besides the harm done to young animals through human contact in the wilds, there is also the danger of contracting rabies from the animal. The animal may appear "friendly" and approach unhesitatingly, while in reality it is suffering from this disease, fatal to animals and to humans as well, if medical treatment is not begun immediately.

If captured young animals are lucky enough to live un-

til adulthood, they can become a general nuisance and even dangerous. There have been a number of cases of so-called "tame" deer striking out viciously with sharp front hooves if agitated. Kindness to young wildlife may unwittingly cause a quickened death; indeed, many young animals have had their death warrants signed by pitying campers or hikers.

It is contrary to regulations to keep wild animals unless a special permit is obtained from the Department of Lands and Forests.

A wise policy, is "leave and let live," as human contact could make an animal one of nature's untouchables.

(Photo and text - Ontario Lands and Forests).

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Anti Weed By-Law Proves Hazardous

To spray or not to spray -- that was the question which gave members of Toronto Township Council's general committee cause for concern last week.

Bob Holmes, the township's weed inspector explained that the weed problem in this municipality has made his job rather hazardous at times.

"He's a real dangerman," Reeve Robert Speck remarked with a grin. "The way some people react to the anti-weed bylaw, our Mr. Holmes could end up being shot."

Councillor Roy McMillan stated that it could be a two or three year fight to clean up the weed problem here because "Toronto Township

seems to be the only municipality concerned about weed control."

The committee agreed that the weeds on township-owned property should be cut if possible, or sprayed "with caution" where cutting is not possible.

Mr. Holmes told the committee that there may be a "test case" in court soon over the anti-weed bylaw.

Councillor Cam Pickell asked what affect the spraying of weeds in the Rattray marsh would have. He was told that a weed spray program is due there soon and that it could force the birds to move on when the food supply is cut. Nevertheless, the job must be done!

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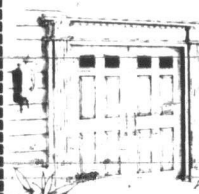
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