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Fishing for Female Fly-casters
By John Kerr

More than a few people in downtown Toronto were probably taken aback yesterday afternoon when a pretty young blond woman named Kathryn Maroun, dressed in fishing gear, stopped them on the street and questioned them about what they know and think about fly fishing.

Maroun is on a world-wide mission to promote the sport. Here to take in the Atlantic Salmon Federation's annual dinner last night at the Royal York Hotel, she took time to talk about her angling preferences.

To say she is passionate about fly fishing is understatement.

"It's the ideal sport" she said. "It spans ages and you can be instantly successful."

Learning to cast is the first step, of course, but even that can be done in city parks, she says.

"I often get asked if I've caught any tree trout," she quipped.

But don't be fooled. This lovely lady knows her stuff. She is the first woman in Ontario to receive her Federation of Fly Fishers certificate to be a fly-casting instructor. And she is trying out later this year to get on the Canadian fly-fishing team that represents us in the world competitions.

"Fly fishing brings awareness of conservation and gets people on the streams to watch for environmental problems and monitor the health of fisheries," she said.

I might add that all angling does this.

Although, born in Montreal, she first learned how to fish for Atlantic Salmon on Cape Breton's Margaree River. Although now based in Toronto, she is more likely to be found fishing somewhere around the world.

Trips she has lined up so far this year, starting with bonefish in the Bahamas today, include salmon and trout fishing from our West Coast to Iceland, south to Chile's incredible brook, brown and rainbow trout streams.

Teaching women to get into fly fishing is Maroun's main drive.

"It's the fastest growing segment of the sport," she said.

One problem has been proper-fitting clothing and other gear for women.

“Men’s shirts, for example, are always too long and bulky for us.”

So, she designed her own line of women’s fishing clothing. She also offers women-only fishing trips and casting instructions.

Sorry, guys, but the ladies can find out more on-line, so to speak. Maroun has her own website at www.whatacatch.net.

Not to be left out, muskie anglers can take in Muskie Odyssey on Saturday, produced by the Hamilton and Kitchener chapters of Muskie Canada, at the Quality Hotel and Parkway Convention Centre in St. Catharines. Take Exit 47 off the QEW and head south for two blocks. The Centre is on the right hand side.

The event starts at 8 a.m. and runs until about 5 p.m. It features five seminar speakers and 36 booths with muskie tackle and information. Tickets cost \$15.

Stick around Saturday night for Muskie Canada’s 25th annual banquet (\$35), if you want, and see who gets into the Muskie Hall of Fame this year.