

Forge Pond ice breaks, ending annual contest

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — A sudden change in the springlike weather Thursday brought a rapid break-up of the ice on Forge Pond within a matter of hours. It also ended for the season the annual guessing game which has been going on for 16 springs as to when the pond would be free of the winter covering of ice.

At noon, observers noted, the main body of the 212-acre pond still had a covering of six-inch "rotten" ice. It was thought that this would hold for another couple of days.

A fast-moving cold front, however, combined with heavy winds and a thunderstorm began moving the ice sheet down toward Beaver Brook with such force that by 6:30 p.m., the combined forces of wind, rain and choppy waters broke up the entire mass in the matter of a few hours.

Only a small ice floe, occupied by a pair of mallard

ducks as further witnesses, appeared to remain as the sun set in the west.

It took a ten-year-old fisherman, Tony Connell of 2 Abbot Street, to cop this year's prize.
