

Strong winds end Forge Pond ice earlier than normal

BY GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — Two days of strong winds added to a fortnight of milder weather put the death knell on the ice covering of Forge Pond for the season last Friday. It was the earliest since Postmaster Robert Connell of the Forge Village post office has been recording the annual event.

In other springs, the earliest date was March 29 in 1966, and the latest April 13 two and three years ago, according to Connell who has been keeping records for the past 13 years. Last year it was April 12, although the average date has been April 7.

A long-time Village resident, James P. Muligan of Palermo Street gave the closest estimate. His excitement in winning was diminished when he discovered his prize was half-gallon-scotch whiskey bottle filled with colored water.

North winds, at times at gust force during the final 48 hours, pushed open the narrows to the upper part of the pond, leaving but a few small ice floes scattered in coves. Area fishermen are now readying their gear for the opening of the season.