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Saugeen Conservation gives tours

When the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority conducted its fall tour of authority properties on Wednesday of last week, one of the highlights of the day was a stop at the Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area, a major development by the authority about three miles north of Paisley.

Although not officially or formally opened, the new sugaring house in the maple syrup demonstration area functioned as protection from the cool wind for the visiting party during a break for lunch. Tours of the 347-acre area were conducted, over the four miles of road constructed during the summer.

The tours left no doubt that the Bluffs has aesthetic qualities which will make it attractive to many campers and nature lovers.

An arboretum at the entrance of the Bluffs conservation area is an acre in size. Forty different species of deciduous and coniferous trees native to southwestern Ontario are planted here. This area is intended to acknow-

ledge the private donation from Robert Saunders of Guelph, a descendant of an early Paisley family, which the authority received, which permitted purchase of the property and assisted in its development.

Forty thousand dollars has been spent on the development this year.

Trail areas for a saddle club and snowmobile club are tentatively planned.

The sap collection system and sugaring house equipment are yet to be installed, but maple syrup production will commence next spring, when 300 trees will be tapped. It is hoped to eventually tap 1,000 trees.

A picnicking area is proposed adjacent to the arboretum. Ample parking space is available as well as a few picnic tables at this time. More picnic areas will be developed as the number of area users increases.

A pasture farm area is approximately 120 acres of newly planted trefoil and timothy. This pasture will be rented to local farmers in future years.

The area outlined for boat access

is an inlet which is out of the main river current. Canoeing will be an integral part of the use of this conservation area, which lies on the Saugeen River Canoe route. The Bluffs has over 1 1/2 miles of river frontage which allows day users good canoeing opportunities.

The campground is located on a loop road in the southwest portion of the property. This area will contain at least 50 large well spaced tent and trailer sites, areas for group camping, and 2 comfort stations. Camping sites should be available next summer.

A recreational area is proposed which will lie adjacent to the camping area. This area would include playground equipment, a baseball diamond, and possibly a large swimming pool with a change house.

Nature trails will be laid out to incorporate areas having interesting vegetation and wildlife characteristics as well as scenic lookout points. Riding trails on the open and forested portions of the property would add variety to a ride.

These are only a few of the many projects that will be carried out at the Saugeen Bluffs Conservation

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Wins Speaking contest

The Bruce County Women's Institutes and the Bruce County Farm Safety Council sponsored a Public Speaking competition on

the topic of farm safety for grades 6, 7 and 8 students. The Women's Institute Branches and Districts held preliminary contests and each district was allowed to send two contestants to the final night. There were 6 contestants at Paisley Central School on Friday, September 20th.

The winner was Helen Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Morris of Tiverton. Miss Morris gave an excellent speech on the need for safety awareness, especially in the agricultural industry. She received a wrist

watch donated by the Bruce County Farm Safety Council for her efforts.

The second prize went to Nancy Meyer from Teeswater and the third prize to Carlene Weatherall. The other contestants were Paul Walker and Clara Kocher both from Hepworth and Cheryl Pegelo from Chesley.

The judges for the competition were Mrs. Hugh MacIntyre from Elmwood, Lewis Coffman from Paisley, and Rick Upfold from Walkerton.



Development of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authorities Saugeen Bluffs Conservation area is progressing. Pictured here is the sugaring house in the maple syrup demonstration area, the major

installation in the area. Visitors to the Bluffs will be able to see maple syrup being processed when the sap begins to run next spring. The conservation area is three miles north of Paisley on the Saugeen.