

## Rotary's Tourist

### Stately Senate to Rocking Jazz Kenneth Gardner Reveals Ottawa

Kenneth Gardner has written especially for the Free Press the account of the Rotary club-sponsored "Adventure in Citizenship" which took him to Ottawa recently.



KENNETH GARDNER

Following in the footsteps of Marilyn Young of 1958, I was chosen by the Acton Rotary Club as the High School student to represent the community in Ottawa, as a way in which to promote a better understanding of the meaning and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship.

The wheels and cogs of the well-oiled Rotary machine turned to the peak of efficiency as 192 students from every corner of Canada poured by plane and train into Ottawa to begin the long to be remembered "Adventure in Citizenship".

However, a cog slipped and a certain Claude Roche, a typical male French name, was billeted with other Quebec students at the R.C.M.P. barracks, where, to the astonishment and pleasure of several hundred Mounties and students, Claude turned out to be a girl. Needless to say, she was immediately removed by the local Molavian.

#### Welcomed at Chateau

The Adventure began officially on the following Monday morning, when all the students were formally welcomed by Chairman S. P. Eagleson, Acting Mayor of Ottawa, Tardef and Rotary president R. A.

Stead, in the Chateau Laurier Convention Hall. This was followed by a luncheon in the awe-inspiring ballroom of the Chateau where Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, was the guest speaker. After the luncheon, we walked a block past "Confusion Square", focal point of Ottawa roads and a cross between the Calgary Stampede and the Indianapolis Speedway, to the Parliament Buildings. Prominent in this square were cars bearing brown licence plates with the letters CD printed on them. Many students believed this was a new device to signify "careless drivers"; however, it only signified "corps diplomatique".

#### Dominant City

The Parliament Buildings themselves were magnificently set on a promontory overlooking the Ottawa River and completely dominated Ottawa so that from no matter what direction one approaches the national capital, the sky-piercing Peace Tower of the Houses of Parliament catches the eye before any other part of the city is visible.

First we visited the Senate Chamber where the crimson and gold settings were in a direct contrast to the grey, white-streaked weathering of the exterior of the building.

#### Memorial to War Dead

Next was the Peace Tower, named in honour of the 100,000 Canadian soldiers who died in the First Great War, where the Memorial Chamber and its Altar of Remembrance momentarily dulled our spirits as we paid tribute to the supreme sacrifices made by thousands of Canadians against the Kaiser's Hun. Their names are forever recorded in the magnificently decorated Book of Remembrance and their deeds inscribed on carved marble slabs set in the walls.

Looking out from the summit of the tower, we had a glorious panorama of the city, just as the tower bells began to thunderously ring and clang less than ten feet away. Proceeding along the Hall of Honour, we entered the stately Gothic structure housing the Parliament Library, containing over 500,000 volumes dating back to 1800.

#### M.P.'s Read Comics

Then we visited the House of Commons Chamber where a debate on tariff modifications on Italian wine was going on. Much to our

surprise, only 20 ministers were in session and of these, eight were reading newspapers and taking particular interest in the comic section, where Steve Canyon and Little Orphan Annie were proving to be most popular.

The highlight of the parliamentary tour was a personal visit by the Prime Minister who, after delivering a short, informal speech to us, presented each of us individually with a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship.

For the remainder of the day and evening, we were the guests of the Fisher Park High School, who provided us with both a dinner and a concert on a predominantly French theme, highlighted by a wild rocking jazz composition by the "Left Bank Beatniks". A dance in a gymnasium big enough to contain all Acton High School completed a long and strenuous day full of new achievement and discoveries.

#### Study Politics

Next day, on Tuesday, we spent the whole morning at Carleton University in group discussions on political science and economics, most of which was a little beyond me. This was followed by several rousing Irish tavern songs while en route to the Chateau Laurier for luncheon.

Lester Pearson was the guest speaker but the early minutes of his speech were constantly interrupted by a boisterous piano player of "Tip Toe through the Tulips" in the adjacent room. Undaunted, Mr. Pearson fervently expressed his desire that young Canadians should appreciate the fine principles of good citizenship and carry them into the broader plane of international affairs.

#### Visit R.C.M.P.

After lunch we visited the R.C.M.P. Training Division and watched displays of horse riding, gymnastics and boxing. Then we had a brief visit to the majestic, stately Government House, which was one of the original buildings of Ottawa (then known as Bytown) in 1825, where His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, C.H., spoke briefly to us on the history of the house. Then we returned to the barracks for a buffet supper and a lively musical display in a different sphere of music to the previous night.



28,000 TREES will be planted in Halton's 11 tracts covering 1241 acres of land purchased by the County and managed by the Department. Here Jim Farrier and Joe Currie are shown using the wedge method of hand planting on the Acton tract.



ZONE FORESTER Cunningham is shown checking the bundles of trees that arrive in Halton from nurseries operated by the Department of Lands and Forests. There are 25 trees to a bundle, packed in peat moss to a diameter of approximately 16 inches.

## Growing Thousands of Trees

### Halton Reforestation Tracts on 1241 Acres

The first settlers of United Empire Loyalist background found Halton a dense forest of hardwood and pine with only Indian trails through the forest connecting one waterway with another. The early task of clearing the land was the biggest until today Halton's rich farm lands are evident everywhere threatened only by the creeping suburban sorawl.

But unknown to many Halton residents is the program of reforestation that is being carried out on 11 tracts of land purchased over a period of years by Halton County Council and managed by the Department of Lands and Forests.

#### 1241 Acres

Zone Forester R. A. Cunningham explained last week that presently Halton's tracts cover 1241 acres of marginal type land. The program dates back to about 1940 in Halton when the first tracts were purchased.

The Cox Tract covering 90 acres was purchased that year and 30,000 trees of mixed species were planted. From one of the fire roads in the network that provides emergency access to the area, a fine stand of red pine was evident. During that 20 years of growth the trees have grown to perhaps 30 feet but will be necessary before the trees may yield a timber harvest. In the meantime the lot may be thinned and the thinnings used, for fence posts.

In the plantings that take place each year a number of Scotch pine are planted and these, the zone forester explained, act as a nurse tree and are allowed to grow for six or seven years shielding the slower growing timber trees. The Scotch Pine may then be harvested as Christmas trees.

#### Nurse Trees

On the Acton tract north of No. 26 sidewalk on the Esquesing/Nasagaweya town line, reforestation was underway with 800 white pine and 700 Scotch pine being planted in the gaps left from an earlier mechanical planting in 1954 and 1956. In 1954 an original planting of 11,000 white spruce and white pine were placed and in 1956 7,700 of the white pine, spruce, Scotch pine and cedar varieties.

#### Fire Protection

The problem of forest fire is as prevalent in these woodland plantings as in most forests. On the Acton tract a 75 by 45 foot fire pond with 10 feet of water has been built at the end of a road to fill the important need if fire should break out.

Tree planting by hand is necessary in most of Halton's tracts because of the prevalent rock outcroppings. Forester Cunningham explained, making mechanical planting difficult and in some places impossible. A snub nosed shovel is used to part the soil in a wedge shape. The tree is inserted against the

straight wall of the wedge and earth tamped back in place.

#### From Nurseries

Trees for reforestation come from nurseries operated by the Department with 25 trees packed in peat moss in a bale 18 inches in diameter. Each bale is 16 inches so they may drop in the northern country where the cargo hatch of an airplane.

1959 will include 28,000 trees as efforts are made to reap the benefits of properly managed woodlands from long marginal land to productive land. For forest management is the same in principle as agriculture, although its processes are slower. Only one year is required to ripen a field of wheat. Trees take longer. Halton is planting for tomorrow's generations.

### Leaving Acton, Expresses Pleasure at Friendliness

Station Hotel, Acton, May 15  
The Editor,  
Acton Free Press, Acton

Dear Sir,  
For the last seven months I have lived in Acton and leave this weekend to take up a position closer to my home and family. I felt that I should drop you a line and tell you how I have enjoyed my stay in the town.

I have found the people so friendly that I thought it only right to let them know how much I appreciated it. It means a lot to a person away from home to have people put a hand wave a hand or a friendly "Hi" as they pass you by on the street.

Another thing that also impressed me was the politeness of the school children as you passed them on the street. No crowding you off the curb, like I have so

often seen in other places as they walk up four abreast. It speaks well for the home training and the schooling, I would say.

I can honestly say I have made some genuine friendships in my stay and a few enemies with those crabbage "bonds" at the Station Hotel!

I would like you to send me your paper to my home address so I can keep some touch on the town I have learned to like very much. It may be a little late but I often read it with you on your Christmas edition. It was a real job for shall we say, a small town edition. Keep up the good work. Wish you and your staff all the best.

Yours very sincerely,  
Ray T. Haney  
230 Weldrick Av.  
Yongeview, P.O. Ont.

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EUROPEAN LARCH was one of the species of trees planted on the Cox Tract about 1940. The tree is similar to the Tamarack except that it grows on upland areas, Zone Forester Cunningham explained as he noted the tree was a deciduous type. The trees are faster growing than the other species planted in the tract.