



MEAL CALL FOR TROOP at Jamboree brought to their outdoor table Stephen Laidlaw, Brian Ventry, Jim Rea, Bruce Peck, Doug Getty, Ian McCallum, Ian Mooney, Neil Hall and John Vanderkoooy. (Staff Photo)

Over 2,800 scouts, staff gather

Having the "time of their lives" yet learning something new and meeting dozens of new friends each day, a horde of 2,254 exuberant Scouts from around the province and half-way around the world flocked into Kelso Conservation Area on the weekend. As participants in Ontario's first Scout Jamboree, they're spending a week under canvas on the shores of Glen Eden Lake to carry out the Jamboree theme—"Adventure in Brotherhood"—with a host of planned activities, educational programs, tours, and sports competitions, and just plain fun.

Before the Jamboree ends this Saturday, each visiting Scout will have or yelled himself hoarse, walked hundreds of miles, eaten a mountain of foodstuffs, met several hundred new chums, traded himself right out of every badge or souvenir he owns, and worn himself out with work and play in the healthy outdoors.

That's what Scouting is all about, and there are 2,254 living examples of good Scouts roaming the subcamps, canteen, amphitheatre and sports fields at Kelso this week. They come in a variety of uniforms and speak a mixture of languages, but their left-handed handshake is a common bond of goodwill.

The Jamboree, in the planning stages for close to two years, began Saturday and was officially opened on Sunday afternoon by the Lt. Governor of Ontario, the Hon. W. Ross Macdonald. It lasts until Saturday and at this point, only bad weather can hamper the event. Monday's rain was bad enough but the Scouts met the deluge with typical youthful bravado and made the most of the wet day by donning old clothes (or shedding most of their apparel) and playing in mud puddles or charging through the slippery obstacle course. Their home for the week, a city comprising over 500 tents spread out over 90 acres at the east end of the 400-acre Kelso park, came complete with service areas including a bank, supermarket-style supply depot, outdoor showers and taps, built-it-yourself kibos, telephones and intercom systems, roads, running water, a post office and a canteen. It also includes marquees for administration departments, an O.P.P. safety van display, 45 bell tents set up for staffers, an army field hospital, transportation centre, information kiosk, a strikingly styled main entrance gate, the natural amphitheatre for entertainments, a sports

field, obstacle course, staff dining quarters, a fire department and full use of Kelso's lake for swimming, boating and other water sports.

On arrival the Scouts set up their own sleeping and eating tents, built a kibo, then went looking for strangers with trade items to barter. "Swap" was the most common word heard around the camp over the weekend, as Scouts sought out others with badges or souvenirs destined for new ownerships. While one tent was devoted entirely to swapping deals, the sport went on day and night all over the camp, wherever two or three boys gathered together.

Resident Jamboree population includes mainly Ontario Scouts and Venturers, but 364 of them are guests from eight other provinces, four States and some lands further afield. The 47 Santa Monica, California Scouts and three leaders hold the record for being the longest distance from home, and their's was the longest because they flew to Vancouver, then came by train to Ontario. Many of their families came with them and after the Jamboree breaks up some of the boys will do more sightseeing in Ontario before heading home for school's opening.

Next furthest away are Troop Leader Vincent Rose and his six Scouts from Jamaica, who figure they are close to 4,000 miles from their home town, Kingston. They also flew here and before returning home will spend a week as guests of South Peel Scouts, then spend a few days in Toronto, three days in New York, and head home September 4.

Nine Scouts are registered from Bermuda, five from Bahamas and two from Dominican Republic. United States has a large contingent on hand, including 56 from Farmington Michigan (including a 30-piece Scout band), 36 from Pennsylvania, nine from New York and California's 47.

Other Canadian provinces represented are Quebec with 38, British Columbia 35, Alberta 33, Saskatchewan 26, Newfoundland 23, New Brunswick 17, Prince Edward Island 15 and Nova Scotia with six. That leaves Ontario with the bulk of the delegates, about 1,900. Five of them are from Milton.

There are 208 leaders with the boys, plus a staff totalling nearly 350, for a total population of over 2,800 at the Jamboree.

A host of daily activities await the boys—when they aren't making their own fun. The Jamboree features the usual camp regulars, including archery,

fishing, swimming, hobbies, hiking, Scouting skills, boating, and all kinds of field sports.

The "Youth and His World" pavilion of marquees, following the Expo style of presentation, offers the boys a chance to develop their thinking to the future. Exhibits include Youth and His Dreams, Youth and His Ambitions, Youth and His Leisure, Youth and His Faith, Youth and His Brothers, Youth and His Music, and Youth and His Heritage. The Ontario film from Expo 67 is a featured exhibit.

Scouts are divided into subcamps, named with Cree Indian words "Ozheeta, Dabwa, Nuhetum and Soogedaa". He is prepared, he speaks the truth, he is obedient and he is bold.

The Do-It-Den is a busy place all day, every day. Areas are set aside for table tennis, whittlers, swappers, slot car racers, model train buffs, stamp collectors and other hobbyists, and daily demonstrations involve the boys in a variety of new skills. Monday was leatherscraft day.

Visitors are welcome at the Jamboree, every day between 2 and 9 p.m. There is no admission fee, just the \$1 per car fee for entering the Kelso park.

Tuesday featured plastic casting, today is whittlers' day, Thursday puppetry is featured, and Friday is painting day.

Each afternoon and evening a variety of entertainment is offered, including a water hoisting display by the Department of Lands and Forests, karate and judo demonstrations, Armed Forces para-rescue techniques, bush survival tactics, scuba diving, remote control planes and boats, dog handling and skeet shooting.

As well, each boy is touring the Lakeview Generating Station and the Canadian National Exhibition for a day. Each evening campfires are lit and Scouts make the rounds to visit friends, sing songs and tell tales. (And swap some more badges.)

Staff for the Jamboree is drawn from every walk of life. Several department heads are full-time provincial Scout executives but the majority of the willing workers are Scoutmasters, Cub leaders and other supporters of Scouting who have given up a week of holidays to come and work at Kelso. They didn't even come for free while the Scouts pay \$40 registration to cover all expenses, the "volunteer" workers on staff pay \$25 to defray the cost of their food.

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HOME FOR JOHN VANDERKOOY this week is one of 500 tents, with the Jamboree contingent from Georgetown and North Peel. He's the only Acton Scout attending the provincial jamboree ever held. He's pictured with David Reynolds of Georgetown. (Staff Photo)

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