

Exciting canoe panorama scheduled for Rockwood

If you are an outdoor enthusiast and like to be on the scene, gather your family and friends together and check in at Rockwood's Conservation Park on Saturday and Sunday of July 12 and 13.

The Ontario Canoe Cruisers Club of Canada is holding its Fourth Annual Splash Panorama in the Grand River and it is scheduled for a starting time of 12 o'clock noon. There will be two whole days of competition, expert manoeuvring, exhibitions of various canoeing techniques, exciting races, and an open invitation to all people who can handle a paddle to enter the Novelty contest in any kind of craft whether it be an old metal bathtub or the weekly wash tubs from the cellar. "Just glam it up; plunk it in the water and be ready to move when the flag goes down!" said one of the avid organizers of the two days' events.

Sixteen members, five of whom are girls, comprise the Guelph Branch of the Ontario Canoe Cruisers Club, their sister branch in Toronto is a much larger one with more than a few hundred active affiliates. For the main part it is composed of athletic, outgoing people, who like the outdoors and much of their program is geared towards many types of open air activities such as hiking, exploring, and swimming, as well as training in paddling and learning to handle a canoe.

Although there have always been many canoe clubs in various areas of this country, white water paddling, which is the phraseology applied to travelling over rapids in a canoe, is a comparatively new sport introduced as recently as ten years ago from Europe and many of the Europeans coming to Canada are helping with the racing and coaching hints to the newer Canadian paddlers.

Most of the paddlers build their own boats used in competitions from fiberglass to their own specifications. When asked if it was more fun entering into competitive paddling in one's own canoe, Janet Theakston, a avid swimmer-instructor and paddler herself, returned, "Up until this year I always had to scrounge someone else's and I've had a marvellous time. No, I don't think owning one's own boat is that important but it is wonderful to have accomplished such a feat."

"It's funny," said Janet, "often people will join the White Water Paddlers because the name itself has a certain ring to it, but when they have belonged for a while and find that there is such a lot of outdoor activity it seems to bog them down and they lose interest or something. Others just imagine they'll never learn to paddle properly and then give up, but those people who do stay in the club think it's the greatest and wouldn't give up their membership for anything."

In talking to various other members of this enthusiastic group, it was noticeable that, in every case, they exuded great esprit de corps and excitement and it was refreshing and stimulating to know that whole mixed groups could enjoy being so involved in athletic endeavour.

John Grobbo, a Guelph University student, busily engaged in enticing interested customers into buying draw tickets on a super fiberglass canoe, was asked how on earth could anyone become adept at learning to paddle his kayak over a rapids. "We learn the techniques to be used in the white water in the winter time," he said, "in indoor pool sessions, and in the summer on flat water." Very proudly he informed everyone that five members of the Ontario Canoe Cruisers from Guelph and Toronto are being sent to the world championships in Bourg, St. Maurice, France, on July 31 until August 6.

The Rockwood race, was originally planned to be a fun weekend for the actively competitive members of the Whitewater Clubs in Ontario, but then it developed into a sanctioned race primarily to introduce beginners to the sport with plenty of experienced paddlers on hand to give suggestions on paddling techniques. And so it is that

Sunday's races are open competitions for all those wishing to take part, with an eye to encouraging more members.

Saturday, July 12th's events will consist for the most part of crosslake and novelty races such as no paddle races. The competitions will begin about twelve o'clock at noon until it will finish about five o'clock and will be followed up in the evening by a Saturday night sing song to which everyone is invited. Scheduled to begin at 10 o'clock Sunday's races will be of a slalom variety where gates must be reversed in a predetermined order in the shortest length of time and hitting as few gates as possible.

Everyone is invited to compete and anyone interested with access to a boat may enter by simply obtaining entry forms at ten thirty prior to the race with the chance that they may win any of the prizes which will be awarded for the first three place finishes. The entry fee of \$1.50 is for all events entered even if only one entry is placed. There will be entries from the Ontario Voyageurs and Kayak Club of Hamilton (O.V.K.C.), Mohawk Rod and Gun Club of Toronto, 4th Weston Scout Troup, Ontario Canoe Cruisers and many beginners not affiliated with any club.

All in all it should be a very worthwhile spectacle for those in the area.



CELEBRATING THE beginning of summer holidays at the final dance at Rockwood centennial school, were: front row, Mike Marshall, Blair Shipp, John Clark, back row Judy De Vries, Marie Saunders, Pat Weir, Mary Anne Waddell, Sandra Root. (Don Hitts Photo)

Rockwood Sports

Rockwood Pee Wees dropped a tough 6-0 loss to Moffat, last Tuesday night. However, the team still remains in second place in the eight team league.

Rockwood News

EDEN MILLS

Anniversaries highlight news

By Mrs. R. Wright (intended for last week) Mr. and Mrs. Howard James, Eden Mills, are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Master Randy Walker, Hespeler, visited with his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacPherson.

Mrs. Blayton, Eden Mills, spent the holiday week-end with her brother and family, Mr. Harry Rigby, Guelph.

Mr. Ogg McLean, Brantford, is a guest at his brother's home, Mr. and Mrs. William McLean.

Mrs. John Turner left for a three week trip to England. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Garnet McDougall on their 25th wedding anniversary recently. After a dinner party with the family, several friends gathered to surprise them with a social evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chamberlain.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cann and family, also Ian McLean, are at a cottage in the Parry Sound area. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thompson enjoyed the holiday weekend at the cottage in northern Ontario. Guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. Wright were Mrs. Emma Robinson and daughter Vera, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. William Moore, Guelph; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Moore and family,

Kitchener? Miss Violet McGimpsey and brother Bob, Toronto.

Mrs. Kaye Stephenson and two daughters Martha and Eva and son Glen left by car for the west coast where they will spend the next two months.

Dr. B. Huff B.A. degree

Dr. H. Bruce Huff received his Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University at its graduation exercises in June.

Dr. Huff received his B.S.A. degree from the University of Guelph in 1965 and his Master of Science degree from Michigan State University in 1967. He has been a graduate research assistant at Michigan State since 1965 and received a Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship in 1968/69.

Since April 1, 1969, he has been employed as assistant professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Guelph.

Dr. Huff was formerly summer Assistant Agricultural Representative in Halton County and is married to the former Janet Aitken.

News and views

By LORRAINE

Yours truly will be away on a sporadic vacation throughout the summer months so Rockwood news fans will have to take pot luck until our return.

Acton Free Press readers wishing to submit news items of the Rockwood area are asked to phone them in directly to the Free Press office.

Hoping every one has as good a holiday as I intend to have and remember that I will be interested in knowing where you go and of any exciting events.

Good hunting and fishing!

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