

Boyd Property Opened as Conservation Playground

A 243-acre "family playground" situated on the doorstep of Metropolitan Toronto was officially opened as a conservation area, Aug. 3 by the Metropolitan Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, it was announced by A. H. Richardson, P. Eng., Authority chairman. The opening was highlighted by a giant family picnic. Known as "the Boyd property",

the new conservation area is located one and a half miles north of Woodbridge on the east branch of the Humber river. It has been described as being one of the most remarkable national recreational areas in this part of Ontario.

The property was purchased last year by the Humber Valley Conservation Authority — now part of the MTRCA — to show conservation to the public. It is now being developed by the Authority as a site for the outdoors enjoyment of Metro Toronto and region's 1 1/2 million residents.

"It is hoped that parents will bring their children to this area on weekends to romp and enjoy themselves in the good, old-fashioned tradition," Mr. Richardson stated.

This is the second conservation area to be opened within a month. On June 21, the 150 acre Heart Lake beauty spot near Brampton was officially opened to the public.

The Boyd property is named after its former owner—Dr. Edmund Boyd, an ardent conservationist. The tract contains the only game preserve in York County, and 85 acres of forest, part of which was planted some 25 years ago.

Further development of the area calls for expansion of the forest cover, restocking of the river and the laying out of nature trails and conservation plots. During the summer, the area's gently-rolling slopes will be used as picnic grounds, in the winter they will become a haven for skiers.

The property includes an unpolluted stream which can be de-

veloped into an ideal swimming place, a farmhouse and barns and a large house that will be used as a field headquarters by the Authority.

The opening day ceremonies included the appearance of Chief Big White Owl who traced the history of the Indian tribes which dwell in the area, and Miss Ruth Marshall, secretary, Ontario Archaeological Society, who displayed artifacts taken from the area in diggings that have uncovered signs of prehistoric Iroquoian villages, dating back to 1350 A.D.

The official opening was carried out by A. A. (Lex) McKendie, M. C., M.P.P. for North York.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of a giant hamper of groceries and picnic supplies, to the family comprising the largest number of children that was present at the opening.

The programme also included conducted tours of the property by Land Rover. Vehicles; an archery contest staged by members of the Ontario Archery Association, and a tree identification contest sponsored by the Canadian Forestry Association of Ontario.

VISIT SCOUT JAMBOREE DURING ENGLAND TRIP

Two "old scouts" who have played prominent parts in scouting work in Georgetown have planned a trip to England to coincide with the World Jamboree which is taking place in Warwickshire.

Bob Hardman, 8 Normandy Blvd. and C. E. "Tim" Stacey, 8 Draper St. left by plane from Malton Airport on Sunday morning to spend two weeks in the old country. Bob has an English nephew attending the Jamboree who will be able to show the Georgetowners around.

Their trip, however, was not primarily to visit the Jamboree, but to see relatives. Mr. Hardman will be with his 80-year-old mother, Mrs. A. Hardman in Leigh, Lancs. whom he last saw while serving with the Canadian army overseas in World War II. His father died two years ago. He will visit, too, with brothers and sisters in that district. Mr. Stacey, who was home for a visit just after the war ended, will make his headquarters in Rotherham, Yorks.

The men plan to meet up again towards the latter part of their two weeks for some sightseeing in Sussex and London.

Dr. D.N. Huntley Guest At Soil, Crop Twilight

J. E. W.

One hundred Haltonites from all sections of the county attended the annual twilight meeting sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association on Wednesday evening of last week. The event was held on the farm of John Muth, near Ash, where the group inspected the replicated variety tests which contained some 20 different varieties of oats, and barley being tested under the regional variety test plan of the Department of Field Husbandry, O. A. C., in co-operation with the Halton Association. The discussion was ably led by Dr. D. N. Huntley, Head of the Field Husbandry Department, who later addressed the group on the spacious lawn of the Muth farmstead. His practical point to earth address was keenly appreciated by the group, despite the chill evening air.

Wheat Yields Disappointing. Considerable discussion took place re the somewhat disappointing yields which many farmers have secured this year from their winter wheat. In short, there is a heavy crop of straw but the yields on the average would appear to be between 30 and 33 bushels per acre. With wheat at present prices that is not an encouraging picture, in view of the costs involved in producing the crop. The discussion brings to mind a survey conducted in 1948 and 1949, by the Halton Association, in co-operation with the Halton Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The object was to determine, if possible, why some operators consistently get 40 bushels per acre or better and their neighbours average only 30 bushels. In the study made during the two-year period, considerable data was secured from 41 Halton farms. An analysis of the data was made by Dr. H. L. Patterson of the Farm Economics Branch, Toronto. At that time the differences in yield secured seemed to tie in with five different factors, namely (1) Variety, (2) Fertilizer and manure applied, (3) Time between plowing and seeding, (4) Date of seeding and (5) the times over before seeding. The question of time between plowing and seeding was responsible for considerable discussion. When we looked up Dr. Patterson's report, we found this and we quote "While the recommendation for Ontario in the past has been not less than 30 days, we found our big difference was obtained where the time which elapsed was over 30 days—consequently this factor may be even more important than has been considered in Ontario. You will note the yields rise particularly beyond the 50 days time."

However, to get back to the meeting in question, where M. C. Beatty, President of the Association, presided, Howard Henry of the Field Crops Branch, was another speaker on the programme. Mr. Henry dealt with weevil infestation of grain and stressed the importance of cleaning up the granary before storing the new crop. A new pamphlet on the subject is just off the press and is available at the Agricultural Office in Milton.

THE DAY WE chose for our trip to Tobermory was perfect for driving—bright sunshine and the air crisply cool. Inverhuron every summer for about ten years, this was the first time we had ever driven up to "The Tub" as Tobermory is known to people who live on the Bruce Peninsula. It's about ninety miles from the beach, with an excellent road all the way. We just took our time, however, the better to enjoy a countryside new to us, Gateway to the peninsula is Wiarton, a town with a breathtakingly beautiful approach from its northern entrance. As the road winds down the steep escarpment you can see the whole town nestled in the curve of a deeply cut bay. The water is vivid blue pointing up the contrast of colourful rooftops I imagine many an artist has tried to capture that scene on canvas.

AFTER WIARTON, you are actually travelling up the Peninsula with the waters of Lake Huron on the one side and Georgian Bay on the other, both never really very far away. However, driving on the main road you don't have an opportunity to see the water, or to see those resorts so well-known for their good fishing, such as Red Bay, Pike's Bay, Stoke's Bay and Howdenvale. So, about ten miles or so above Wiarton we took a left turn to connect with the sidewalk that runs along the lakeshore in order to see all these places.

I HAD PACKED a picnic lunch which we ate along the roadside not far from Red Bay. Almost as soon as we started up the terrain. It becomes very rocky and sort of wild-looking. Life there would be very quiet I imagine, and certainly the area hasn't been commercialized. There are a lot of wild flowers blooming all along the roadside, and when we stopped for lunch it was a good opportunity for a close-up of some varieties we had never seen before. There was a profusion of many familiar ones too, such as 12th of July orange lilies. They showed to advantage in the short sparse grass barely covering the outcroppings of rock. The pink wild roses were in bloom too, and driving along the marshy places close to the lake shore the wild iris pitted their orchid-like blooms against the blue of the lake.

THIS SIDEROAD takes you very close to the shore for I should say twenty or thirty miles. A very pretty drive which I feel it would be a shame for anyone to miss, if they're thinking of going to Tobermory. Allow a little extra time for jogging off to resorts with attractive-sounding names. It all adds to the pleasure of a leisurely trip. Beyond Stoke's Bay, however, there is no lake road, and you have to rejoin the main highway for the balance of the drive to the tip of the Peninsula.

JUST AS YOU enter the super-highway which has been built to Tobermory there is a gift-house to end all gift houses for tourists. It's built of logs and is the most elaborate one of its kind, I have ever seen. It combines the commercial aspect with convenience to travellers in the form of a beautifully kept play area for tiny tots, picnic tables, and in a carefully protected enclosure, several huge black bears.

The store itself is two or three stores rolled into one—china, brassware, fine glass, woolsens of every description, copperware, rustic furniture and woven wicker goods, all in separate departments each large enough to call itself an individual store. They carried a tremendous stock. Made me wonder how they could possibly sell it all. But it's pretty hard not to spend money when you go in. Without much effort we put a hole in a ten-dollar-bill and we weren't browsing around for very long. I suppose it would be very hard not to stop there either on the way to, or from Tobermory, because they have one very big advantage. Everyone going to the Tub has to pass their establishment. So I guess they do a good business. It just seemed so odd to see a store like that set down right in the middle of a wilderness, practically.

WE ARRIVED at Tobermory just in time to see the big ferry-boat pull away, bound for Manitoulin. The village itself consists of a cluster of a half a dozen stores—a couple of general stores and two or three souvenir shops—rimming the little hill at the back of the harbour. There are several very nice looking motels and cabins but not as many as I had expected. A few well-kept homes complete the quiet land. But by that time a stiff little village, with the main hubbub was ruffing up the lake and

Chatting

M. H. B.

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of activity and interest being the dock and harbour. We bought some postcards, looked around the stores a little, and toyed with the idea of a boat ride over to Manitoulin. It's always nice to leave something in the harbor to, don't you think?

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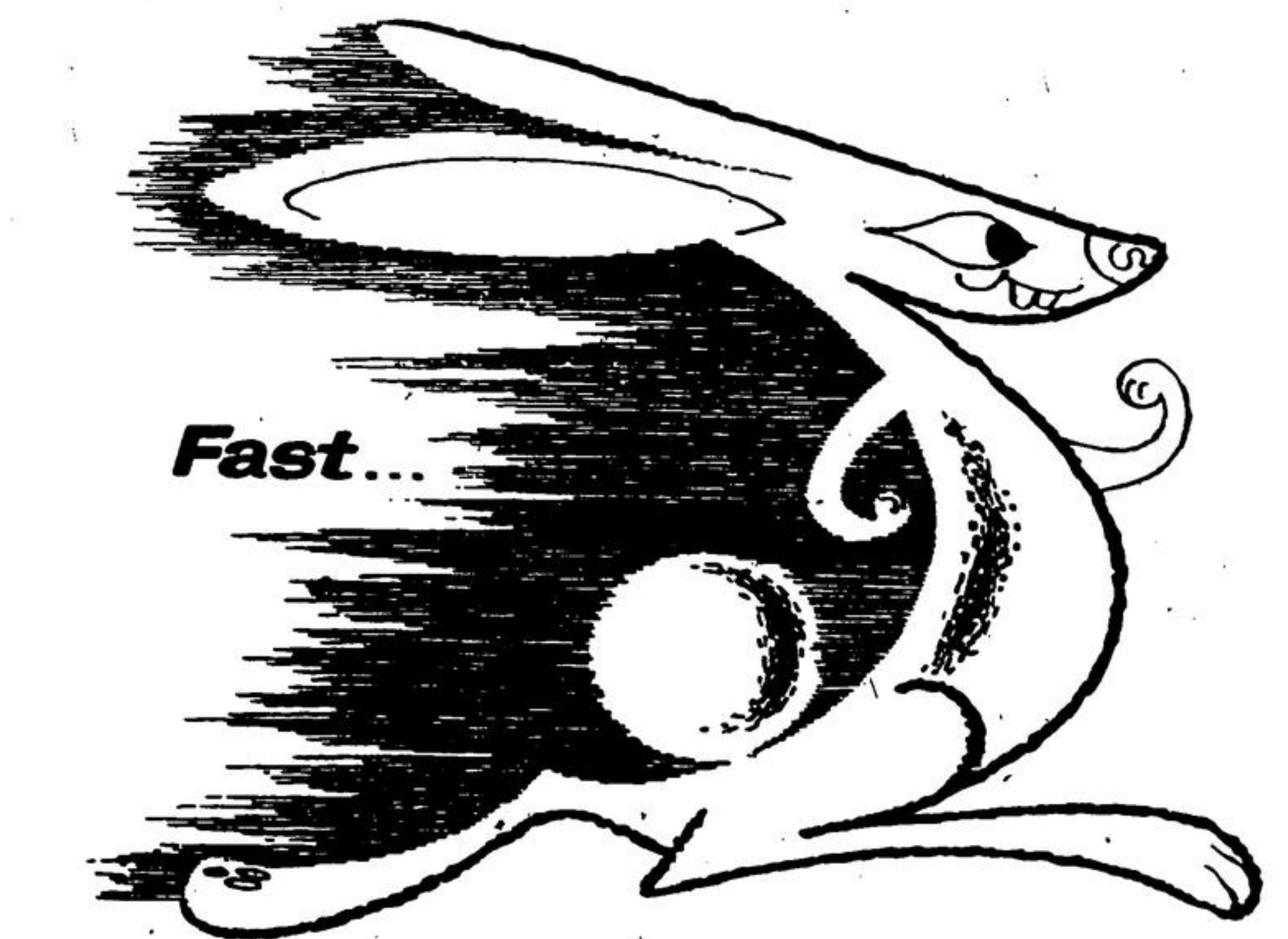
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