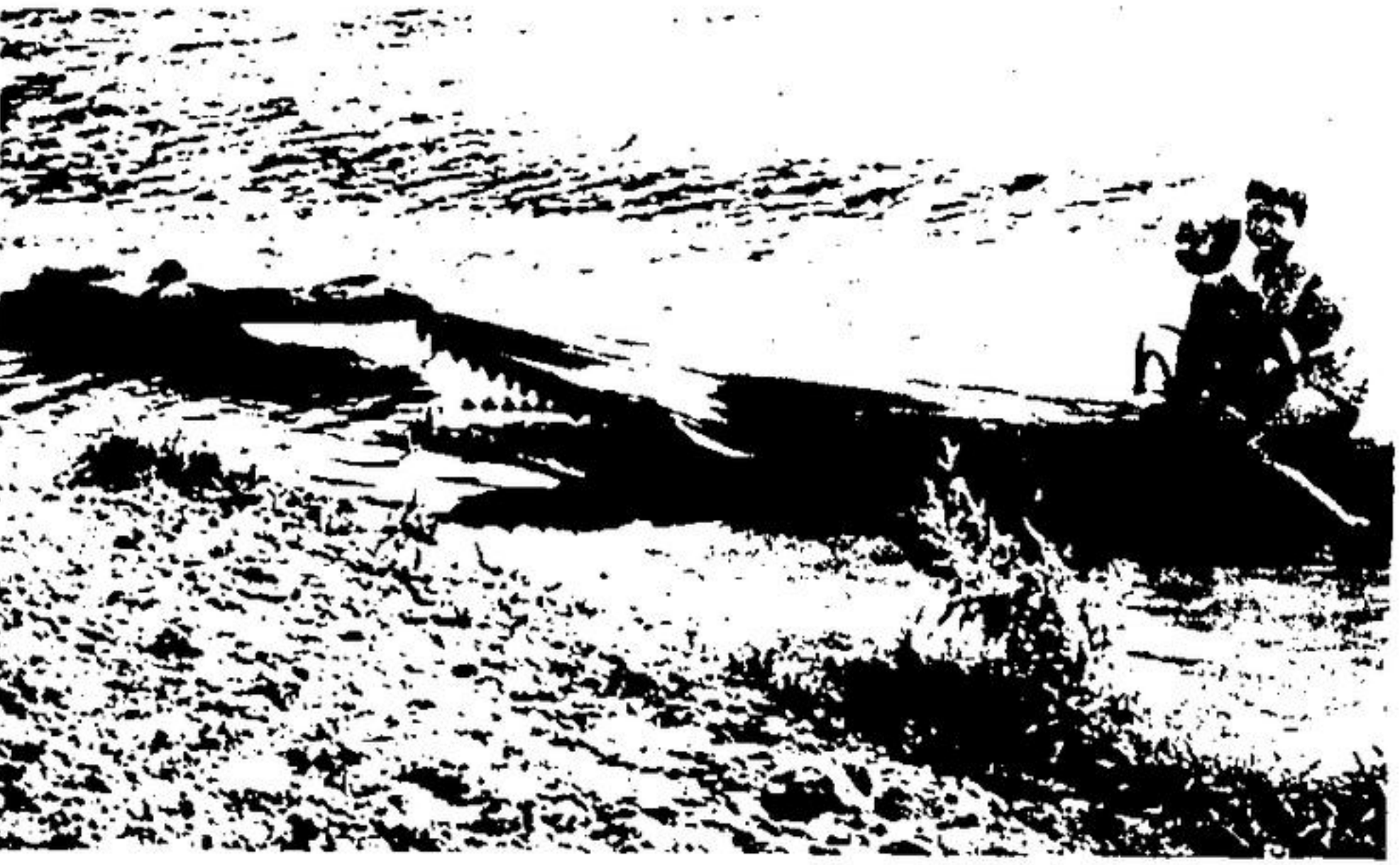




CHAD AMBING of Toronto gets set to dive off the tower of the "S.S. Outlaw", as captain Joe Ross watches. The paddlewheel boat is a favorite with visitors at Ross Lake area, near Georgetown.—(Staff Photo)



"BOB" AND "SLOB", two wooden crocodiles at Ross Lake appear to be snarling at each other, as Michael and Patricia Zimmer of Georgetown enjoy a ride on the back of "Bob".—(Staff Photo)

Ross Lake owner claims purest swimming water

The purest swimming water in Halton County and an ideal place for parents to take small children for a day's outing is what Ross Lake owner Joe Ross claims he has to offer picnickers.

Favorites with youngsters at the lake, located on 17 Sideroad between the Fourth and Fifth Lines of Esqueping, just west of Georgetown are two floating wooden crocodiles, which Mr. Ross cut out of two cedar logs. The life-like creatures, complete

with eyes and jagged teeth are jokingly named "Bob" and "Slob". An Indian wigwam and a water slide are other features that make a day on the sandy beach enjoyable.

The "S.S. Outlaw", a paddlewheel boat which takes visitors on tours of the lake is also very popular. Formerly dubbed the "S.S. Ponderosa", Mr. Ross renamed the boat and calls it a "symbol of the struggles of developing private enterprise."

Trail riding and trout fishing can also be enjoyed at the area and Mr. Ross has four horses available for trail riding. Skating, kart racing, and hayrides are held at the area in the winter time.

Referring to the closure of his airstrip by the Department of Transport last March, Mr. Ross said the closure had not yet been lifted, but that he expected it would be soon. He regards the closure only as a retreat. "There's no such thing as a permanent defeat," he said.

For and against expanding cities

Two teenagers who belong to Halton's 4-H Agricultural Clubs, Norma Leslie and Cathy Lasby, have written editorial commentaries on the problems of expanding cities and the threat of the cities overtaking Ontario's agricultural land. The editorials are reprinted from the last issue of the Halton 4-H newsletter:

FOR EXPANDING CITIES

By Cathy Lasby

Will the residents of Halton County be a part of the massive megalopolis of Mississauga? Will your farm be the future site of a residential area, a shopping mall or even a new city hall? Forecasts have been made that show a loss of well over three million acres of Canada's best agricultural land to cities by 1980.

The topic of expanding cities is difficult to decompose into advantages and disadvantages. The growth of cities becomes a problem to both the city and the surrounding area when the expansion is not planned and controlled. If urban sprawl is allowed to continue in Halton County, in Ontario or in Canada, the prime agricultural land will be depleted and farms and farmers will become history.

If effective planning is enforced immediately, the expansion of cities will have several advantages for the residents of Halton County who live on farms. Cities will be able to grow in importance, functions and needs, without growing in unnecessary areas.

As the population of cities increases, the need for food will also increase. Thus new markets or larger markets are formed. The farmers in the sphere surrounding the city will be able to sell their products, perhaps at higher prices, with less transportation costs.

If Canadian farmers want to feed at least the Canadian people, technology must be applied to agriculture. In order to learn new methods of farming, people must be trained at universities and colleges. With educational facilities available in the nearby cities, I am sure more people will take advantage of this opportunity to better themselves in their occupation and industry.

Many young people are leaving the farm or the rural communities because they are bored. They head for the city to find recreational facilities and entertainment. With the city close-by, but still with the rural atmosphere for daily life, most young people are quite satisfied. These young people will be the farmers of tomorrow.

Expanding cities create disadvantages when they are allowed to sprawl. Urban sprawl must be stopped, so don't just sit and complain about the uncontrolled urbanization, do something about it! Turn the disadvantages into advantages!

AGAINST EXPANDING CITIES

By Norma Leslie

Let's get out, move away from all this traffic, smog, pollution and concrete world. This seems to be the trend of families lately and shows best, I think, that cities are not satisfying the needs of the family.

In past years villages were built to protect people from the wilderness and dangers around them. As time passed, industries developed because these central pockets of people offered a ready supply of labor and markets for goods. Now since transportation is fast and efficient, and the dangers to one's life more readily found in the larger centres, there is a trend to decentralize.

To the farmer this change is a mixed blessing. The owners of small farms, finding it harder to compete with larger operations and make enough profit to raise his family, see selling land for building lots as a smart way to keep from sinking in the high tides of inflation. The prices are often very handsome and hard to refuse but what happens to many of these lots? Often they grow up in woods and the fertile land is left idle for long periods of time.

Factories have also decentralized and with easy accessibility to markets, and materials, they are likely to expand until all the land in the Grant Trunk corridor is under its control or influenced by its presence. Action must be taken to plan the progress of industries.

I do not mean to say that cities and industries are evil and decentralization is wrong. A country, if it is to grow and prosper, must contain cities, but it cannot be independent of agriculture. It is time people realized the importance of agriculture to Canada and stop treating it in many cases as a small time, old fashioned occupation. It is a business, and a very important one. Unlike other businesses, however, farming is directly affected by the fertility of the soil, topography of the land, hours of sunlight, rain, etc.

Agriculture and industry must work together in a country and, I feel, they can in Canada if planning is done now at all levels of government. In areas like Middlesex and Elgin, where the value of agriculture is greater than the four Atlantic Provinces, laws should be made to protect the land from other industries that could be located on poorer land. There are thousands of acres of poor land that industries and home owners could build on and still be out of the city.

People are beginning to realize the need for city and urban planning. This is the first major step. The second step that must be taken if Ontario and Canada is to develop to its greatest potential is to act.

Regular cleaning must for propane

Users of propane gas-fired refrigerators were warned by Labour Minister Dalton Bales today that the units must be regularly cleaned and maintained to avoid deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

He said five people have died in the past two months as a result of carbon monoxide fumes believed

to have been caused by blocked flues from propane gas-fired refrigerators.

Mr. Bales said that these refrigerators, used extensively in summer cottages, campers and mobile homes, must be properly cleaned and maintained at least once a year. Otherwise, he said there was a chance that people

might become victims of carbon monoxide poisoning.

He said the Department of Labor through its Energy Branch, transferred to his department from the Department of Energy and Resources earlier this month, will supply information on servicing of these refrigerators.



AMONG THE MANY attractions for youngsters at Ross Lake are two wooden crocodiles. Here, Michael and Patricia Zimmer of Georgetown enjoy a ride on one of the crocs.—(Staff Photo)

Iris plants do best planted July, Aug.

D. B. McNeill
Iris plants do best when planted during July and August after they have passed their flowering peak. Plants that have been growing well for several years will have roots that are overcrowded and should be lifted. The soil should be washed away to expose the rhizomes, and division should be made with a sharp knife.

The younger, outer portion of the roots should be divided for replanting, while the older outer part should be discarded. Pieces of rhizomes with two or three "fans" of leaves attached make the best divisions. The rhizomes should then be placed in a shallow hole with a small ridge in the bottom. The roots are spread out over the ridge and soil is placed over them to cover the rhizomes to a depth of one inch.

Divisions which are planted about one foot apart will increase rapidly and will soon provide a massive show. When three to five clumps are planted together they will provide a much better effect than will a single one standing alone.

William Stuckey PHOTOGRAPHY
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