

Rural-Urban exchange

Oakville girl enjoys farm week

Story and photos
By Dan O'Reilly

Sandra Early and Sandra (Sandy) King are two products of different environments who, though they have similar interests, have slightly different lifestyles.

Both Sandys are grade eight students who are still unsure of what they want to do with their lives. They're not really worried about the situation, though. Both are 13 years old.

Sandra King attends New Central Public School in Oakville and will most likely enroll at Oakville Trafalgar High School when she completes grade eight. Sandra Early is a student of Brookville Public School, who is planning to go to Acton High School when she finishes her public school education.

Depend on land

Sandra Early is the fourth generation Early to live on the Early farm (a Century Farm) on 25 Sideroad in Nassagaweya. Sandra's parents Don and Jean Early view life through the eyes of people who depend on the land for their source of income.

The other Sandra (Sandy) is a resident of suburban Oakville, where she's lived for the past year. Before that she lived in Preston. That town's tempo was considerably slower than her present hometown, she claims. Miss King's father is an ac-

countant with the Ontario Milk Association.

It was because of this year's Urban-Rural Exchange Program Sandra King was able to stay with the Earlys. In addition to being a fun time, the week-long venture gave her a brief picture of a life different than her own.

Cost is low

The Urban-Rural Program attempts to place an urban youngster on a farm for a week and lodge a farm child with a city family for seven days. Cost is only three dollars per youth and both the host families are covered by insurance.

"We're hoping to improve relations between the urban dweller and the farmer. Through the program the participating children can see that life on a farm or vice-versa is different than what they've been accustomed to," claims Janet Hunter, Halton-Peel Co-ordinator of the program.

Miss Hunter, who operates from the Ministry of Agriculture Building on Main St. in Milton, says very few farmers have indicated interest in the program yet. "I'm optimistic the situation will improve," she states.

Applicants are chosen on such criteria as marks and attitude in school and whether or not the particular student would benefit from the rural outline.

Our Oakville lass, Sandy King

doesn't know why she was selected. But she's glad to have had the opportunity to help with the farm chores, even when it means climbing out of bed at 6:30 in the morning to help Sandra herd the family's cows to the barn for milking.

"I've also learned some useful tips on baking from Sandra," remarks Sandy.

All work and no play makes Jack (Sandy) a dull person. The girls didn't have all their time scheduled for work. "We've spent a lot of time bicycling and swimming at the Rockwood Conservation Park," explains Sandra Early.

Why did the Earlys decide to participate in the program? "We heard the organizers needed host farm families, so we decided to help out," says Mrs. Jean Early.

Different idea

"It gives youngsters a chance to see what farming is really like," adds Don Early. "Some city youths think food comes directly from the can."

While the two young ladies have similar interests, they maintain separate identities. Sandra Early keeps her hair short, while Sandy King's hair cascades almost to her shoulders.

The Oakville girl dreams of becoming an airline stewardess and travelling to Switzerland. Sandra Early wants to enter the

home economic profession or work in the secretarial line.

A college or university course is probably in the offing for Sandy King. Sandra Early isn't sure she'll want any more education after completing public and high school.

Last week's experience was a "take things as they come affair" for the girls. They were never lost for something to do, they report. Time was divided between farm and kitchen chores, hiking, swimming, and exploring.

One thing they did not do was plan the next day's events, says Mrs. Early. "When you're on a farm there's just no way you can plan for anything," she concluded for the family.



SANDY AND SANDRA at work in the Earlys' garden.



UTILIZING a boulder as a spot to relax are the two Sandys, Sandy King and Sandra Early.

Halton coffee houses scrutinized

A coffee house? What is it and what can it do to help avert social problems and improve youth-adult communication?

To get answers to these questions and a sneak preview of what Actonians may expect when they visit the "Coming About" coffee house which opened last week in the community centre basement. Free Press reporter Susan Gibbons visited coffee houses in Oakville, Milton and Georgetown. They are also operating in co-operation with the Addiction Research Foundation.

Lack of space has placed restrictions on what Acton's coffee house may include this summer, but supervisor Adele Hurley hopes a foundation can at least be laid. She predicts there is no limit to the number of useful projects that could result.

"Granddaddy" of the coffee houses, "Abinash" (soul centre) is located in an old warehouse near the Oakville arena. The building includes a central room containing tables and chairs and an entertainment platform. It is surrounded by five smaller rooms, including a kitchen, art room, library, office and store.

The self-supporting project has 20 paid staff members and about 20 volunteers who have just finished remodeling the interior. An attractive hand-painted mural decorates one wall of the art room. The group hopes to build a patio and establish an outdoor cafe.

Also in the works is a health food restaurant. The present store offers health foods for sale along with handicrafts and books. All proceeds from sales go towards operation of the coffee house.

Pottery, oil painting, water colors and macrame, taught by local artists are available for persons interested. Artists also bring their work there to display. There is a charge of from 50 cents to \$1 on the nights (usually on the weekend) when folk singers and other entertainers appear. "Abinash" is open all year round. Summer hours are from noon until midnight and until 2 a.m. on the weekends.

A downtown log cabin, which formerly housed a music supplies store is the home of the Georgetown coffee house. It is

under the supervision of University of Waterloo grad student Franc Sturino. Georgetown youths involved in "Initiative '72", an Opportunities for Youth children's theatre group are also helping with operation of the coffee house in their spare time.

Wooden reels, obtained from hydro shops and construction sites have been transformed into useful coffee tables with a little paint and the addition of red and white checkered table cloths. Fancy bottles used as candle holders adorn each of the tables. A secondary room contains used lounge chairs and couches purchased for bargain prices at auction sales, a TV set and a kitchen bar. It is here visitors to the coffee house will be able to sit and "rap" with experts on various subjects who come to the coffee house on Thursdays.

Folk singing and entertainment is confined to Friday and Saturday evenings when there is a 25 cent admission charge. Crafts are offered on Tuesdays.

Awareness groups A special feature at

Georgetown is an effort to open up communication lines between people in the form of a human awareness group. Sturino, who is studying human relations at university will conduct the group.

"We're going to make every effort to have the coffee house pay for itself," Sturino says. "It's our intention to keep it open all year round. If it's successful we might launch a fund raising campaign to try to buy the building."

Sturino says he's encountered no negative reaction to the existence of the coffee house from adults.

"No booze, no drugs, no rowdiness," reads a sign at the entrance to Quonset Hut coffee house at the rear of the Milton shopping plaza.

Most spacious of all the buildings, it contains table tennis and pool equipment on a second floor level, as well as the customary coffee house tables, used furniture and wall decorations.

Milton Youth Council, which was formed following last year's Halloween riot, has played a large role in establishment of the Quonset Hut. Dave Lloyd and Paul Perrott are co-supervisors. "We're catering to all age groups," a Milton spokesman said.

Adults welcome

Although not many adults have visited the Quonset Hut yet, they're especially welcome.

"We've found that having some magazines laying around can be an attraction for adults," pointed

out Adele Hurley. She supervised Abinash last summer. "They're often nervous of visiting a coffee house at first."

Volunteers at the Quonset Hut work on three different committees.

Oakville folk singers who are making the coffee house circuit and "Helix" a local band have provided entertainment on weekends. A youth folk choir from Milton's Holy Resary church also sang.

Of particular interest to Miltonians is a mini-course in the sign language which will be taught by an Ontario School for the Deaf staffer. It is hoped it will help them communicate better with OSD students whom they meet in town.

Common to all four coffee houses is the bill of fare, which includes coffee, cider, pop, chips and doughnuts. Popular movies will also be shown on certain nights at all four.

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FOLK SINGERS John and Rick entertained at the Comin' About coffee house Saturday night. The room in the community centre was filled with about 65 young people and adults to hear the guests. Other folk singers are slated to come tonight (Wednesday) and Friday. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The office of the Court of Canadian Citizenship will be opened in the Town Hall, Committee Room, 2nd Floor, Milton, Ontario for the month of July on the following dates:

Friday, July 21, 1972 (and alternate Fridays thereafter).

A citizenship officer will be in attendance to supply information about Canadian Citizenship and to take applications for Canadian Citizenship from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (lunch hour 12:00 Noon to 12:30 p.m.)

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