

Student surveyors uncovering escarpment's good, bad points

A land formation created over 400 million years ago, now commonly known as the Niagara Escarpment, is being catalogued in detail this summer in a co-operative venture between private industry, the Ontario government and concerned students.

The unique survey of the escarpment is being done by 10 students in geography, architecture, landscape architecture, agricultural economics, land-use planning and related disciplines. It is being financed by General Foods as a co-operative project with the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

"FACS" (Features and Conditions Report) surveying began in May and will end later this month when the five teams of students file their reports with the Commission. The students, Commission members and staff and officials of General Foods got together at Kelso Thursday to discuss the progress to date over a picnic lunch, and there is every indication the study will pay big dividends.

Good, bad points
NEC director Jim Gilbert stressed the student survey involves both the positive and negative aesthetic features of the escarpment, which is 465 miles long and covers 2,000 square miles of land. The team are cataloguing not only abandoned pits, derelict buildings, unused dumps and eroded areas, but also natural attractions such as waterfalls, stands of trees, rock formations, habitats for flowers, animals and birds, and sites of historic interest.

Such an inventory is "an essential pre-requisite" for mounting any program for protecting, enhancing or rehabilitating the escarpment, he said. The Commission's goal is to maintain the escarpment as a continuous natural environment, at the same time attempting to accommodate demands compatible with that environment. The Commission is presently creating an overall plan for the entire escarpment area that stretches from Niagara Falls to Tober-

mory on the Bruce Peninsula.

Work together
"We are particularly pleased with the co-operation of General Foods," said Commission Chairman George R. McCague, "because we believe there are many areas where the private and public sectors can work together to maintain the valuable heritage of the Escarpment."
This is the fourth summer that General Foods has sponsored student surveys in areas of ecological interest. "Rather than simply signing a cheque, General Foods believes in getting directly involved in its undertakings in the field of public affairs," GF president Robert S. Hurlbut said at Thursday's picnic. He said he was glad the company could be instrumental in such a project that not only provides information for the Escarpment Commission but also affords students an opportunity for summer work led closely to their studies.

S. J. Clansky, co-ordinator of policy and research in the Ontario Treasury Ministry, represented Treasurer John

White at the picnic. He said the government was encouraged to see enlightened public industry working with government agencies and students on such a meaningful project and suggested the Escarpment Commission's work was part of the government's continuing commitment to preserve the escarpment.

Early concern
George Kerr, Solicitor General for Ontario also attended the picnic. He recalled taking a tour of the escarpment in the Milton area back in 1964 when Dr. C. A. Martin of Halton Region Conservation Authority expressed his concern over the quarrying operations.

To date about 1,000 individual sites on the escarpment have been catalogued and the students' reports show an even split between positive and negative evaluations. Gilbert said in the remaining weeks he expects more positive or "good" features will be recorded.



"FACS" SURVEYORS from this area Sylvia Rockel and Karen McCulloch tell Escarpment Commission member Mrs. Anne MacArthur, Mayor of Milton, about the interesting features they found on the escarpment in the Hamilton to Georgetown area. Members of the commission met with FACS students and sponsoring General Foods officials Thursday at Kelso for a review of the survey.

Two in Halton area

See quarries, beauties

Two girls who are presently recording the good and bad points of the Niagara Escarpment between Hamilton and Georgetown, are having a wonderful summer and learning a lot about the escarpment at the same time.

The Hamilton-Georgetown sector of the escarpment is being inventoried for the Niagara Escarpment Commission by Karen McCulloch of Brampton and Sylvia Rockel of Kitchener, both University of Waterloo students. Karen's in environmental studies, Sylvia in resources management.

Both said they were happy to find a summer job so closely related to their university studies. Karen said her summer survey work will likely serve as a background for a thesis she is doing at university.

More had than good
To date they have covered about 80 per cent of their survey area, roughly from Cheltenham to Burlington, and in August they'll wrap up the Hamilton end and file their final report.

Karen said the Halton area of the escarpment seems to have more "bad" points than good, mainly because of the extensive pits and quarries which dot the Halton landscape. She suggested there are likely more pits and quarries to be catalogued in the Hamilton-Georgetown area than anywhere else on the 465-mile long escarpment.

But they're not all bad, she sums up. "Pits and quarries are always being knocked around as being scars on the land-

scape," she said, "but there are quite a few very conscientious operators." They've been warmly received at most of the quarrying operations and given complete co-operation by the management and staff of the extractive industries.

Both girls said they love the outdoors and the beauty of the escarpment. They're listing both positive and negative aspects of the escarpment and they appreciate the waterfalls like Hilton Falls, the scenic views, the unique areas of flora and fauna, the wildlife habitats, the buildings of special interest, the renovated country schools and the one-of-a-kind historic sites like Limehouse kilns.

Describe potential too
Their work entails measuring, mapping and describing all the good/bad points, evaluating them and reporting on their potentials.

In recent years several other studies of the escarpment have delineated its aesthetic components and the findings of these surveys is being incorporated into the FACS mapsheets.

"We're certainly learning a great deal," summed up Sylvia.

Other survey teams are working the areas from Queenston to Hamilton, Georgetown to Primrose, Primrose to Thornbury and Thornbury to Owen Sound. Larry March of Ballinafad, a resources management student at University of Guelph, has been active in the Queenston to Hamilton end of the study and reports he really enjoys his work.



GETTING THE "FACS" (a Features and Conditions Report on the Niagara Escarpment) are Escarpment Commission chairman George R. McCague and General Foods president Robert Hurlbut, pictured with FACS student surveyors at a picnic at Kelso Thursday. The 10 students hired by General Foods are listing the good and bad points of the escarpment this summer and turning their reports over to the escarpment commission to assist in planning the future of the land form.

Hill wants access to 401 for Halton Hills

Access to Highway 401 would help attract more industry to Halton Hills, Mayor Tom Hill, told Minister of Industry and Tourism Claude Bennett when he visited Georgetown last Friday at the Market Centre.

"If we do the Ninth line all the way down we will be in a better position to acquire industrial land. There would be more industries interested in coming here," the Mayor said.

Hill, Bennett, Halton East M.P.P. and Minister of Governmental Services Jim Snow, and Walter Gowing of the Niagara Escarpment Commission held informal talks for an hour. Bennett was here as part of his tour of Ontario industries where he meets municipal officials.

Snow pointed out when the boundaries of Halton Hills were drawn it was decided to extend it right down to 401 so the municipality might one day have such access.

Snow asked Hill if there was any more land left for industrial development. "Not in town. There isn't any land left. We would have to go into unserved areas," Hill answered.

Bennett wondered if the town has plans to purchase more land or if they had their eye on any land.

"No that's a long way off. We have problems with sewers and we can't even bring in more housing let alone more industry," Hill stated.



ONTARIO MINISTER of Industry and Tourism, Claude Bennett, greets Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill and Walter Gowing of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The three men plus Halton M.P.P. Jim Snow held informal talks in Bennett's touring trailer last Friday.

"We are talking about a trunk line for sewage disposal in Peel and there is a chance the line will come into Georgetown and that would help you," Snow said.

"You are really hemmed in industrially," Bennett observed.

The two Ministers also toured Varian Associates Friday and said that they found it very interesting.

"It's amazing the tremendous value of some of the very small things they make there," Bennett said. They also discussed Ontario industry in general.

Talks on Limousin

The Halton 4-H Beef Calf Club held their regular meeting at XIM Genetics in Eden Mills.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Keith McKinnon. The attendance was taken and the minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary, Nancy McKinnon.

There were 16 members and three leaders present to enjoy the interesting talk given by Dennis Cluey about the farm operation and Limousin cattle. After the talk, the members had a class of four bulls to judge, and a pen of seven Limousin bulls to decide which was the poorest of the seven.



"Nothing grows... I don't plant flowers, I just bury seeds!"

Ballinafad Many on vacation, "scolds" speeders

By Mrs. H. Shortill
Mr. and Mrs. William Cutler Sr. have sold their house here in Ballinafad and have moved to Erin.

Mr. Reg. French, Wayne and Blake, spent part of this week on a holiday to Otter Lake, Parry Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Morley Shortill and wee Patrick are also holidaying there.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Ballinafad have been having their holiday in their new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Flint of Nottingham, England, are spending three weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Bird. Mrs. Bird is their daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Klatt were honored guests at Ballinafad Community Centre for their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Terry, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Anderson, is on a visit to the Maritime provinces to spend some time with relatives and friends there.

Pam is also away with a group of her Crusader pals who are camping at Paris, Ont.

Heritage highway . . .

Continued from page 1
ment of their neighbors," he said. Bennett promised to look into why Halton Hills has not been approached.

Hill said the many rules and regulations governing camp grounds hurt the person interested in going into that business and forces government to take on the job.

"If a person wants to go into the camping business, government should not only let him but they should help him. We need more camp sites and if a guy makes a buck in the process so much the better," Hill said.

They also discussed where tourists are coming from this year, the tremendous market for Ontario in Europe and the success of Mohawk Raceway. "I think we should go after the Ontario Jockey Association for a track here," the mayor said. He added that he thought it should be a year-round operation.

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