

Seek names for award recipients

The Legion draw for half a beef was won by J. Graham, and two quarters won by Mrs. W. Wilson and Mrs. D. Ryder. The Concerned Citizens held a public meeting Tuesday evening in Ospringe school. Full report next week.



PREPARING FOR scuba diving at Fairy Lake, Acton, Sunday afternoon are Halton Scuba Trek members Jim Powell, Jim Mulholland and Dave Francis. They went down 20 feet and walked on the bottom in almost total darkness.

The much-discussed Charles Thompson memorial award has been confined to residents of Acton, by the Acton and Esqueping Recreation Committee.

The award, given in honor of the late Mr. Thompson, is presented to the person or persons who have contributed the most to Acton recreation. Mr. Thompson was a resident of Erin township who used to walk into town for sports activities.

The award has only been presented once since its introduction several years ago.

The committee had decided a few months ago to revise the award.

It was first decided to have the award open to any resident of Acton and Esqueping, and to have the committee choose the name. At a later meeting, it was decided to let the public choose the names or names, with the committee picking the final winner from the names submitted.

Inherited

At the January 13 meeting of the committee, the award was further discussed.

Kerwin McPhail, one of the founders of the award, explained it was something Halton Hills inherited when regional government came into being.

Pam Sheldon felt that the memorial should be kept within the former town as Mr. Thompson "did not know regional government was coming along and in all fairness to him it should be kept in Acton."

Names may be submitted for the award to the town offices on Mill St. A mail chute on the outside of the building makes it possible for names to be put in at any time of day.

Rain, sleet or snow can't deter committee

In spite of the near blizzard on January 13, all members of the Acton and Esqueping Recreation Advisory Committee made it to their regular meeting.

No carnival

Plans for the introduction of a town-sponsored winter carnival this year have been scrapped by the Acton and Esqueping Recreation Advisory Committee, due to lack of time for planning.

At the January 13 meeting of the group, they decided to hold all plans until next year, when the event can be properly organized.

Gas taken

About 10 gallons of gas were siphoned from a school bus on Tyler Transport lot Jan. 19. Police are investigating.

Three scuba divers walk 20 feet below ice Sun.

Through a square cut in the ice, three adventurous scuba divers slipped into the 34 frozen waters of Acton's Fairy Lake Sunday to swim underwater and walk along the weedy bottom. Overhead was almost total darkness, as the noise of snowmobiles reverberated through the foot and half depth of ice and its thick coating of new snow. The men carried powerful lanterns and were guided by ropes.

All are members of the recently-formed Halton Scuba-Trek, and are fully-qualified divers with many dives behind them.

But diving under the ice is different, and for two of them it was just the second time under the ice and for one, his first wintertime experience.

Scuba Trek president Dave Francis of Georgetown and secretary Jim Mulholland, Acton, made their second descents under ice. Club secretary Jim Powell, Milton, made his first. Mr. Francis has been diving about 10 years, Mr. Mulholland about five, and Mr. Powell just a year or so.

They enjoyed the training experience and intend to do it again in three weeks.

They began their preparations at Fairy Lake at about 8:30 a.m. Sunday and after 2 p.m. they were back at the Mulholland home, 325 Orville Rd., Acton, gulping steaming coffee and soup.

Divemaster was J. D. Hewitt of Georgetown who has had a year's diving experience. He had the vital job of holding the strong ropes which assure the safety of the men underwater. Air temperatures were about 6 above.

Club members located a good spot 75 feet from shore behind the poultry building. A patch 12 feet square was cleared. From here paths three feet wide and 12 feet long were shovelled to radiate out from the centre, to guide

divers underwater. Warning signs were posted and the area was roped off. (Spectators too near the edge could slip in.) Safety lines were tied to trees on shore, buried under snow so they wouldn't catch snowmobilers.

Cut out

A four-foot square was then marked on the ice, cut out with chain saw and the slat forced under the ice, where it floated nearby till needed to plug up the hole again.

By 1:30 the divers donned their gear-wet suits which would let enough water in to insulate, boots, hats, inflatable Mae West life preservers, air tanks, snorkel, weight belts, mask and goggles.

The snorkel could be handy if the diver were trapped under the ice and could locate a pocket of air.

Big lights so they could see, and a knife, to untangle themselves from possible weeds, ropes and long-abandoned fish lines.

There proved to be plenty of weeds on the bottom of Fairy Lake at this point. It was about 20 feet deep, dropping off suddenly as a result of dredging.

Fish seen

The divers had some slight

companionship a few pike stared back at them.

Projects

Scuba Trek hopes to take on the project of cleaning the bottom of Fairy Lake. They could be particularly helpful in bringing up garbage and debris from the swimming area in the park.

Some of the members are keen about diving at the sites of wrecked lake ships at Tabernory. They have been there before and intend to go again. Maps show where the ships disappeared as long ago as the 1870's. There are more wrecks waiting to be found, too.

Members are also prepared to assist if needed in an emergency, such as an underwater search.

Can be dangerous

This experience was important to them since diving can be very dangerous unless properly done.

One of the divers Sunday found his regulator frozen and air cut off. He shot to the top at once.

The men said they felt the cold more on the surface of the lake than underwater.

Between 50 or 60 people gathered to watch.

Meetings

Many of the club meetings

are held at the Mulholland home in Acton where detailed planning sessions precede all dives. The group has been offered a building in Milton as a club house, if they'll fix it up themselves. There are about 10 members in the group and all have passed the specialized courses required for membership. (Some who try the tough tests fail.)

The group has one woman member, Diane Emerson of Georgetown, who is inactive these months since she's at university.

Scuba Trek has been organized for about a year and is looking for more members. Jim Mulholland suggests people interested could call him at 853-1761.

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PROPERTY OWNERS

Please co-operate by not plowing or shovelling snow from your property on to the road. Besides being dangerous it is illegal and offenders can be charged.

Your co-operation in observing these regulations will assist greatly in the winter control program and be to the advantage of all citizens.

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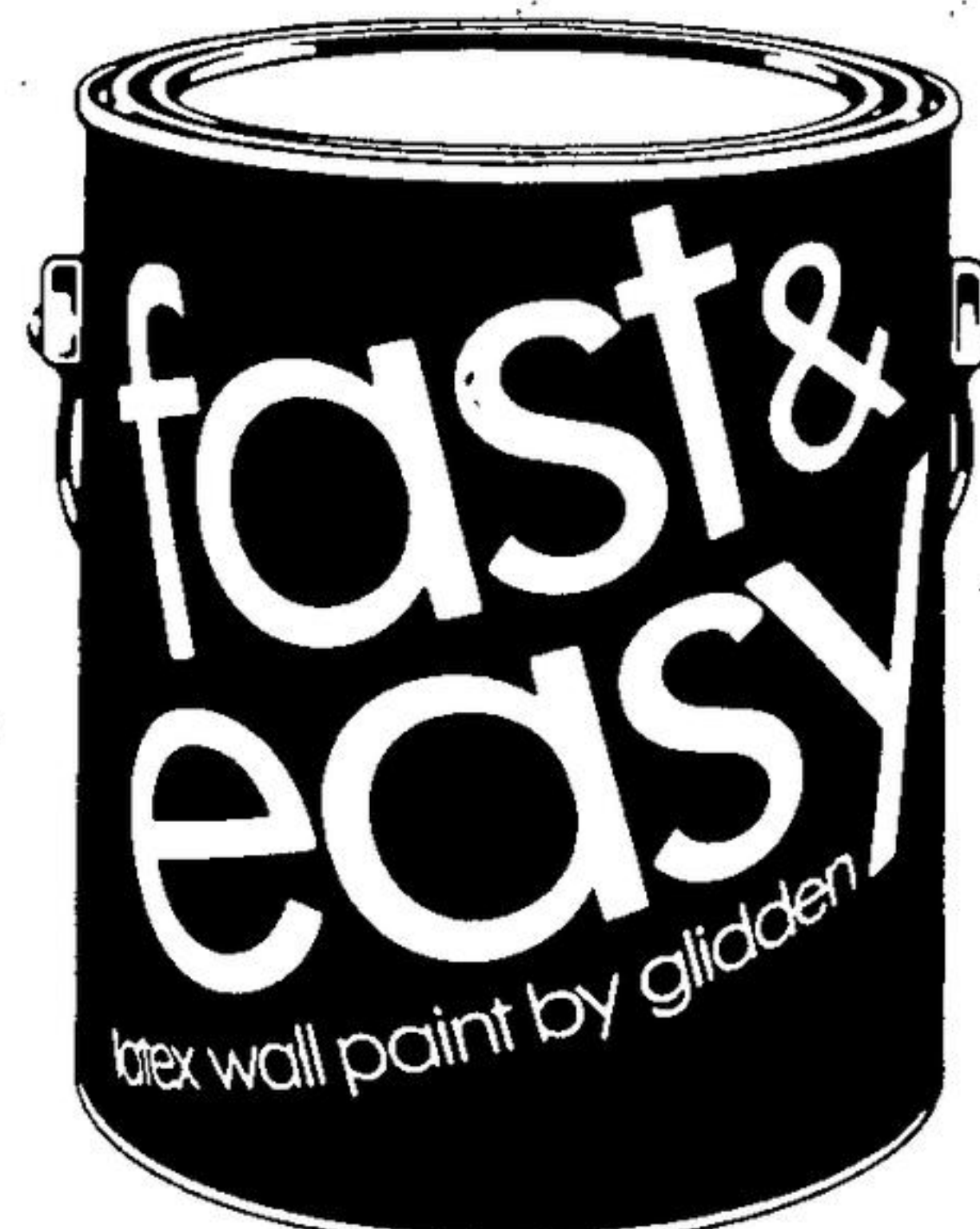
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