

Scout and Guide news

by Mark Howe

It was a long drive to Alliston, but the 11 girls from Acton perked up considerably when they saw the sign, Camp No-Na-Me. These Girl Guides under Capt. Helen Rowe spent last weekend camping with 11 girls from the 335th Toronto Guide Company from York District. The weekend was planned by their leaders, Capt. Pat Bilo-deau and Lieut. Maria Demmery.

The girls were divided into patrols where they quickly made new friends. On Saturday, events included crafts, badge work and a hike. At the campfire that evening, the Acton girls surprised both the leaders and the Downsview Guides by coming up with skits of their own.

Everyone was back home about five, Sunday afternoon. Our grateful thanks go to the kind parents who drove the girls up Friday night and returned for them Sunday afternoon.

Craft conference
The Guides were not the only ones making crafts on Saturday. A craft day was held at the Acton Scout Hall, Saturday afternoon. Over 80 Wolf Cubs plus leaders squeezed into the two halls. The boys were from across North Halton district. They started out their afternoon with a singsong.

For crafts they made Indian headbands, plasticine wolfheads, pinch puppets, tinfoil Christmas decorations and elephant woggles. The

Scout and Guide Mothers kindly provided a snack for the mob. It was certainly a most constructive and valuable day.

Parents' news
The Scout and Guide Mothers held a delicious pot-luck supper last Tuesday at the Scout Hall. Every mother received an invitation to attend but many decided not to. Please do not feel out of place and attend these meetings.

There is an important parents' meeting tonight for the parents and their sons hoping to attend the 1977, national Jamboree on Prince Edward Island next summer. One of the items to be discussed will be the financial end of the venture. Be sure to attend the eight o'clock meeting in the new Scout hall.

Would leaders of every section and interested parents, especially fathers, please note that the group committee meeting for December has been moved to the seventh at 8:30 in the evening. Parents may notice that there is a lot in here for them this week. Just remember that all this work is for the welfare of your son or daughter. Please, at least indicate your interest.

Remember the films which will be shown on Saturday, December 11 and 18 at the Scout hall. They are for anyone in town under eleven years old. It is being organized and run by the first Acton Venturer Company.



CUBS FROM SEVEN Halton Hills packs were on hand Saturday at the Acton Scout Hall for the annual Cubs crafts day. The boys rotated to various tables, where leaders would show them how to make everything from sculptured wolves' heads to hand puppets. The Acton cubs' mascot was also on hand for the fun and games and was the centre of attention. Front row, Mitchell Chany, Fifth Georgetown B; Gregg Lindberg, First Georgetown; David Dengier, Eighth Georgetown. Back row, Bruce Irvine, Limehouse, Andrew Ferguson, First Acton; the mascot, Robbie Lamoureux, First Norval and Christian Wassermann, Fifth Georgetown A.

Board wants Canadian history and geography

Halton Board of Education wants all high school students to be required to take at least one credit course in Canadian History and another in Canadian Geography.

Thursday, trustees supported such a resolution from Prince Edward County Board of Education, being circulated to boards throughout Ontario, and also being sent to the Ministry of Education. Superintendent of Program Bruce Mather observed Queen's Park requires every board to offer options such as Canadian Geography and Canadian History but there is no regulation which says they must take the courses.

Trustee Bill Priestner said he has heard "peculiar" stories about Canadian History and Geography courses in which the subject material often isn't really Canadian. Chairman Judy Alexander

said there should be requirements that students take Canadian history or geography.

Board rejects grade 13 exams

Halton Board of Education is all for having uniform tests for all schools in the region but isn't keen on seeing grade 13 and university entrance exams brought back.

Thursday, the trustees supported only half of Trustee Dick Goodin's motion to bring back province-wide departmental exams in Halton high schools.

Goodin said every school has different standards and many community groups and educators are joining him in calling for better standards of student evaluation.

Superintendent of Instruction John Boich said since 1969 the board has been moving towards uniform Halton-wide tests and more are being developed all the time.

Trustee Tony Goodyear said if tests have been given all along that isn't what he has been hearing from the community.

Director of Education Em Lavender said a recent report from Ontario universities points out the number of pupils failing first year has not changed appreciably over the years. The universities say this is either because of improved university instruction or because university standards aren't as stringent now.

He said the same report wants the basics taught in public schools but aren't in favor of the schools going back to the old departmental exams or university entrance

exams as they used to exist. The universities are, however, in favor of students being given English and Math aptitude exams before they go to university. Lavender

replied Trustee Bill Priestner said he couldn't support a return to grade 13 standardized exams because they weren't very good when they were used and wouldn't be now.

Trustee Fred Armitage said Halton tests should include evaluation of a pupil's mastery of grammar and spelling.

Lavender said he expects new Ministry of Education guidelines for core high school curriculum will state that spelling and grammar should be included in English training.

Board likely to spend \$150,000 over budget

A financial projection shows Halton Board of Education will go \$150,000 over budget this year.

board is under budget is capital expenditures. The board budgeted \$750,000 for purchase of new school sites in Burlington but didn't buy the land.

The board's transportation costs will go over budget by about \$15,000, Lindley said.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley told trustees, Thursday, that his department has projected costs to the end of this year. He believes costs will go over budget by \$1.1 million in the instruction category, which is predominately teachers' salaries.

Lindley noted the board's \$73 million budget didn't take into account staff wages which took effect in September.

At the same time the board finds itself \$200,000 under budget for school building operations and maintenance.

Lindley said the board's hydro and fuel bills are \$150,000 below budget which indicates "our energy conservation program is having some effect."

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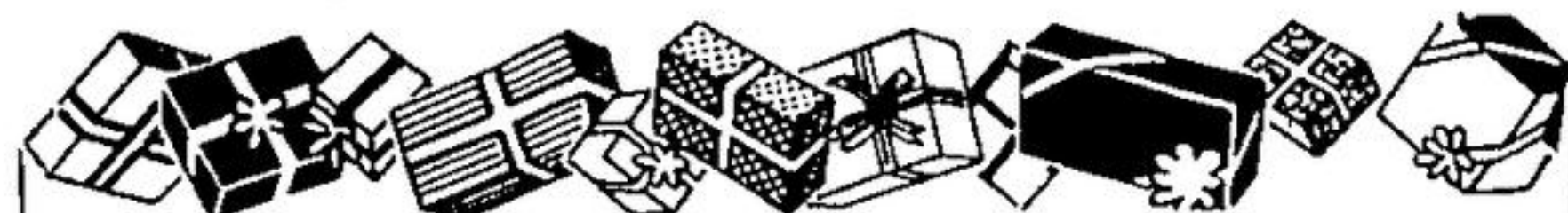
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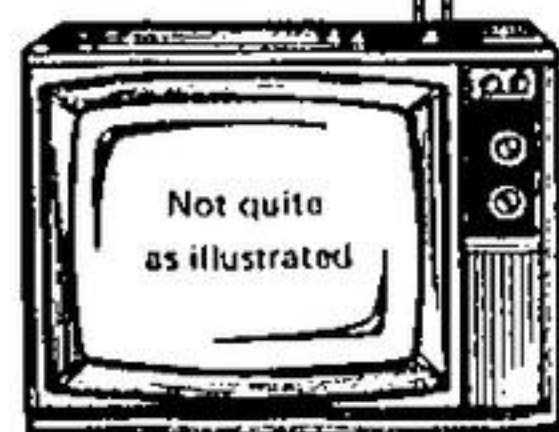


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