



Are you one of those fortunate country dwellers who still have a small woodlot on your property? And are you also one of those misguided people who think leaving it alone will re-establish an ecological balance and assist nature?

Woodlots have to be harvested for maximum efficiency and for most wildlife benefit. Now is the time to do it. The weather is good (at least, it is as I'm writing this), the snow crust is light and the trees are dry. Wood harvested now will be well seasoned for next winter's fires.

Hardwood best for fire
If you have a five to 25 acre bush in this area it probably consists mostly of softwoods or conifers (evergreens), with a few hardwoods or deciduous trees scattered about. Unless the bush has been recently logged, you'll have enough dead trees for firewood for many a winter without having to destroy a living tree.

Seasoned green hardwood, from living trees, makes the best firewood because it is denser and burns longer. However, dead wood is there for the taking and, as it must be removed anyway you might as well burn it.

Any bush needs thinning every five to ten years otherwise the trees crown, or thicken at the top, thus making a solid canopy blocking out the sun and discouraging the growth of saplings.

A good bush should have trees in various stages of growth and some ground cover to provide for wildlife. Too much open area encourages grass growth.

Dead wood must go
By removing dead wood, you are inhibiting disease development, giving more room to the living, and providing yourself with firewood. Hawthorn bushes should be cut out, they take up enough room for two or three good maples. The only live trees you need to cut are the crowded or deformed ones, unless you are "release cutting" - harvesting some of the tall trees to open up a too dense bush.

Even if you just want your bit of bush left as naturally as possible to encourage wildlife, you have to help it. In nature, deer, beaver, rabbits, and forest fires do the job of thinning forests. Have you seen great herds of deer or a beaver colony lately? So it's up to you to thin the bush to make maximum use of the nature cycle.

Cedars for fences
Hardwood is best for burning with apple, walnut and oak high on the list of excellent woods. However, who in his right mind is going to kill one of these trees? An old apple tree in need of pruning, or too old to produce, is good material for your fire. Dead oaks and walnuts are few and far between - so are live ones. You may have a few dead maples and (tragically!) lots of dead elm. This is your firewood for quite some time. Sappy green woods make a mess of your chimney and lay threat to chimney fires unless dried for three to six months. Soft woods burn too fast and hardly worth the effort of cutting.

Use your cedar trees for fence posts. Cedar is the most rot resistant (all those trees you see standing knee deep in swamp are cedar) and make the best posts. Harvested now, they will season enough for spring setting.

Cut wood will dry outside, especially if it's split and stacked to allow free air movement. Drying in the garage or basement is a little faster but beware of ants in dead logs. I speak from experience!

Next week, we'll continue with some hints on actually cutting and preparing the wood.



BRUCE AND MARGARET Brillinger are specialists in Parent Effectiveness Training. Another course is being planned for Acton this winter.

Another P.E.T. course offered

P.E.T. is more than just our Prime Minister's initials. It also stands for Parent Effectiveness Training, or the art of "Parenting" and it is coming again to Acton in February.

Margaret and Bruce Brillinger are organizing their second P.E.T. course in Acton. They are both registered P.E.T. instructors; in fact they are the second top instructors in Canada. Their first course was so successful that "We had to turn people away," according to Mrs. Brillinger.

Improve skills
P.E.T. is designed to improve people's communication skills, and "because they are skills, they take a lot of practice," says Mrs. Brillinger. The course is specifically designed to teach parents four things: how to help your children, how to confront your children when they do something you don't like, how to resolve conflicts, and how to influence your child with your values.

The skills and attitudes being taught by P.E.T. are "neither permissive nor authoritarian," says Mrs. Brillinger. Instead, P.E.T. teaches people to commu-

icate their thoughts and feelings honestly and effectively. By using P.E.T. parents will teach their children "responsibility, creativity, consideration for others, the ability to form relationships," Mrs. Brillinger claimed. "They also will tend to improve in their schoolwork."

Redistribution
Plans for redistribution that will remove Georgetown from MP Frank Philbrook's Halton riding will become final July 11.

In the event of a quick election, the election would have to be fought on the existing boundaries, he said. A quick election would cause considerable chaos as much of the organization for redistribution has already been completed and some members who have had their ridings affected have announced plans to run elsewhere.

MP Frank Philbrook said an election in 1977 is an unlikely happening. The Trudeau government has a mandate to govern until July 8, 1979, two and half years from now.

New service opening soon

Bruce Brillinger, 4 Park Ave., is opening a private counselling service in Guelph, to help in all sorts of family relationships. The practice will open on January 15 at Stone Road Mall.

Mr. Brillinger has spent the last 15 years in social work of various types, several of which involved counselling. His longest job for the period was with the DeLester Children's Centre in Toronto, working with emotionally disturbed children. He has also worked with Children's Aid in Guelph and the University of Guelph Psychological Services. He earned his MSW

(Master of Social Work) at Wilfrid Laurier and his BD (Bachelor of Divinity) at McMaster, but he says "Being a parent is the best training."

Helpful
In this counselling practice, Mr. Brillinger feels he can be most helpful with personal and interpersonal relationships. He will also be working with individual difficulties, for instance depression, anxiety, and stress. In his counselling he will try to open up channels of communication, so that problems can be let out into the open. "Once a problem is out there, it can be dealt with."

People have to learn to be honest with themselves," he said.

Mr. Brillinger will be seeing Acton residents in his home by appointment, if

people have trouble getting to Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. Brillinger and the children live in the former Parker house at the corner of Mill and Park.

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Select November 19 for I.O.D.E. bazaar

The Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. held their January meeting in the board room of the Acton Legion. Regent Helen Jocke conducted the business.

Selected for the nominating committee were June Gerth, Helen Jocke and Elsie Syme.

The chapter is making a \$25 donation to the I.O.D.E. Silver Jubilee Museum in the

North West Territories commemorating the Queen's Silver Jubilee. They also made a \$50 donation to the Acton Community Services organization.

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First Acton W.I. meeting of the year

The first meeting of the new year for the Acton Women's Institute was held in the Isabel Watson Room of the library with ten members present.

Miss Dorothy Simmons, the president, opened the meeting in the usual manner.

Mrs. George Hargrave, secretary-treasurer, read the minutes, correspondence and financial report. She also gave a full account of the Board of Directors meeting.

districts 10, 11 and 12, of the Federated Women's Institute, which was held at Guelph on January 4.

The Tweedsmuir History book was displayed by the curator Miss Jean McLean. Roll call was "Give a history of your home."

Readings were given by Mrs. Roy Lindsay, Mrs. Cecil Nellis and Miss Jean McLean. Mrs. Lindsay won the contest.

Lunch was served.

SHOULD THE TOWN RECOGNIZE YOU??

If you know of any who have achieved provincial, national, or international recognition in any activity (an interest, an art a sport, . . .), then the Town of Halton Hills would appreciate the opportunity to recognize these efforts in bringing honour to this community. For this reason, the town would ask that recognition forms be forwarded indicating such achievements with any supporting documentation to the:

Director of Recreation and Parks
36 Main Street South
Halton Hills (GEORGETOWN), Ontario

BY: Monday, January 17th, 1977

Recognition forms may be picked up at any one of the following locations from 8:30 - 4:30, Monday to Friday.

Recreation and Parks Department Offices
At The
Gordon Alcott Memorial Recreation Complex
OR
Municipal Office Buildings
Located At
1. 40 Mill Street East, Halton Hills (ACTON).
2. 36 Main Street South, Halton Hills (GEORGETOWN).
3. Municipal Building on Trafalgar Road (also known as Halton Road 3).

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