



CEDAR LAKE FARM welcomes vacation visitors from all over the world. Frank and Lucinda Freeman will be hosting their eighth season this spring as one of the only holiday farms in the area.



AN EXPERT quilter, Lucinda Freeman spends long hours at her quilting frame.

Happy visitors enrich lives of district farmers, the Freemans

To Actonians fresh country air, lots of green and access to rural life are taken for granted.

However, to city people these things are a novelty to be enjoyed on special vacations — the kind of vacation they can get at Cedar Lake Farm, Fifth Line of Erin just above Five Side-road.

Frank and Lucinda Freeman have opened their home to visitors for eight years enjoying vacationers from such countries as Italy, Pakistan, Switzerland, France, Holland and the British Isles. One lady comes regularly from Hawaii but most of the visitors hail from nearby Toronto and Hamilton.

Quilting and carving. The farm is pretty quiet this time of year even though the Freemans take in winter visitors.

Mr. Freeman looks after the 37 head of beef cattle, carves beautiful wood pictures and plays his violin. He's been a noted area fiddler at dances and parties for longer than he cares to remember. He used to play with his boy's tunes.

Mrs. Freeman spends long hours at her quilting frame turning out pieces of art prized by the many farm visitors who have taken them home. She has more orders for the handworked quilts than she can fill without working at it steadily. Two of her quilts went to London this Christmas, ordered by a young Chinese couple who stayed at Cedar Lake Farm last summer.

Better than milking. The vacation farm started eight years ago when a friend sent the Freemans an article about the new program initiated by the Federation of

Agriculture.

"You should do this instead of milking cows," the letter said.

Until then the Freemans had farmed a variety of stock including the nine milk cows, fat cattle, registered Short-horns and Yorkshire pigs; they'd shipped eggs and raised geese.

By 1968, the creamery in Acton was closed and Mr. Freeman was becoming increasingly frustrated trying to market his milk satisfactorily. To a couple with nearly-grown grandsons, the idea of a vacation farm sounded appealing. Information was sought.

Investment was minimal. Advertising in the government brochure, insurance, and membership in the Federation of Agriculture amounted to about \$70 and the Freemans were open for business.

They were delighted with the results and are still enthusiastic about the project. "It's real education," chuckles Frank.

Organic manure. He tells of people who have never been on a farm before marvelling at the fresh air and country food. Children's reactions to the discovery that manure is organic fertilizer and milk is produced by cows, sometimes becomes negative. People have even objected to the scale in evidence in the bathroom reminding them of overindulgence in Lucinda's good cooking.

Homemade rolls and pies are always a feature of Cedar Lake meals although Mrs. Freeman says she does little special cooking for guests. "People seem to like the pies and vegetables from the garden best," she says, "and the water." Children are thrilled with such activities

as digging potatoes.

"We've never disliked anyone," comments Mr. Freeman.

He reminisces about the blind guest who loved to romp on the lawn with the family dog. He remembers the grandmother who brought her grandchild out to see farm life through the eye of a child.

Both the Freemans laugh when telling of the lady who had spent several weeks travelling and camping with five children. During their stay at the farm, she boated out to the middle of the lake, got grounded on a log and had to be rescued, declaring the time she had in the boat was the most peaceful part of her holiday.

Occasionally guests come out in winter to wander through the snow bringing comments from neighbours. "You mean they pay for that?"

The Freemans have hosted people of many faiths including Muslims, Buddhists, and one self-proclaimed atheist. Frank murmurs, "I've never seen an atheist yet who wasn't afraid of a thunderstorm."

Looking for quiet.

The farm is busiest during July, August and September and welcomed 87 guests for 194 days in 1976. Six guests can be accommodated at one time in the three cosy bed rooms. Whether staying for one day or several weeks, Cedar Lake visitors find the same easy welcome.

"People say they feel they've known us all our lives."

Guests find freedom to wander over the beautiful tree-dotted hills, help with chores, enjoy evening sing-songs or hay rides, boat on the three-acre pond, or just relax. Some visitors make the farm their headquarters for sight-seeing or going into Toronto.

"Most people are looking for a quiet place away from the crowds."

Some vacationers leave part of themselves behind, paintings and portrait photographs they all leave behind.

"Some just call us up to chat and we often get letters." Publicity help. Television and newspaper publicity has helped the Free-

mans attract visitors from far away.

In 1971 20 members of a TV camera crew descended on the farm for a day's filming that ended up as a 15-minute spot on a CBC special.

The farm has twice been featured on a Kitchener television station. Newspapers including the Toronto Star and many other large dailies have spotlighted Cedar Lake.

Mr. Freeman's comments on water diving, another hobby of his, are included in a McLelland and Stewart school publication, "Canadians and Their Society." Forty-three years ago, Frank and Lucinda built their house on the 100-acre property. There they raised a son and lived a full farm life.

Now, at a time when most people would think about retiring, they are learning and enriching their lives with many friendly visitors from all walks of life. Despite the threat of a massive hydro corridor marching past their front gate, the Freemans are positive about the future of Cedar Lake Farm and its happy occupation.



FRANK FREEMAN practises the violin when he's not looking after his cattle and preparing for winter visitors at Cedar Lake Farm.

Dump issue

Halton Regional Council will consider a report today from M.M. Dillon Engineering indicating that further study is warranted with regard to a landfill site near Tremaine and Britannia Rd. The report recommends moving the 500-acre proposed dump site slightly to the west and even closer to the Niagara Escarpment.

Members of the Tremaine-Britannia Ratepayers' Group take some satisfaction in the fact that there are 10 new councillors on the Regional Council.

"We've been in touch with them. Several have come out to see the site. They want information and we are doing

the best we can to provide it for them," Dave Katz, a member of the group said recently.

Some councillors are reported to be rethinking their positions. The idea of expanding existing sites or going to three or four small sites on an interim basis is gaining favor with some councillors.

Public Works Chairman Jack Raftis said recently that he feels council will want to go to three or four small sites coupled with a crash program for resource recovery. Mr. Raftis has been billed throughout the dump debate as the key proponent of site F.

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Winter carnival family fun day

Plans for Halton's first regional winter carnival day at Kelso Conservation Area, Sunday, Feb. 13 are shaping up and it promises to be a big family fun day.

Organizers plan a family snowman building contest, toboggan races, log sawing contest, donut eating contest, family skating, sleigh rides, skating races, skiing, an antique gun show and tours of Halton Regional Museum, from 1 to 4 p.m. that day.

This year for the first time, the four recreation departments in Halton have banded together to sponsor a joint, region-wide carnival. In previous years, each has sponsored its own, but often the weather forced cancellations.

The organizers chose Kelso for its central location, and also because it is usually a few degrees cooler at Kelso and the snow on which many events will depend may not melt so quickly if there is a February thaw.

Due to limited parking at Kelso and thousands are expected to attend the event parking will be provided at Milton Mall parking lot and shuttle buses will take carnival-goers to and from Kelso. A total of 12 buses will be available.

Shuttle buses will also operate within the conservation area to transfer participants and spectators from one event to the other.

The risk of heart attack in men increases with age—40 per cent from 30 to 50 years of age.

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