

Daily feeding for our ducks

Arena workers are feeding the Fairy Lake ducks daily now, armed with feed paid for by Council, and the indefatigable Esther Taylor is helping out with food of her own.

Arena manager Harold Townsley's staff are out every morning feeding the ducks with "a couple of pairs" of scratch grain and corn.

Frank Morette, head of the Halton Hills Works department, says that the cost so far this winter has been about \$1,000.

The birds were also to have been sheltered in the Fall Fair barn as they were last year, but the barn was unavailable this year.

Open water

The birds have taken the

problem of shelter out of council's hands by flying by themselves to the dam, where Beardmore's keeps the water aerated. The water is piped to the plant for use in tanning. The ducks need the open water to survive out of doors in winter.

Beardmore's has mentioned in the past that the concentration of ducks around the dam has caused problems with the tannery's water. John Greifeneder, chief chemist for the company, said because of the extra fertilization "there is a heavy growth of weeds and they get in the intake pipe." Mallards also eat out the bank by digging at roots, according to Mr. Greifeneder.

The company has nothing against ducks; in fact it runs a sanctuary of its own on the tannery grounds.

Miss Taylor is feeding the ducks every evening because she feels "they need to be fed twice a day in the cold." She feeds them bread and corn.

Surprise source

In addition to her regular trips to the lake, Miss Taylor is providing food through another avenue. Some of the ducks have discovered the food she leaves out for squirrels by the library, and they apparently think it is food they have found for themselves out in the wild somewhere. Birds which will flock to Miss Taylor at the lake will fly away if they see her by the library.

"It's funny, they don't seem to recognize me!" she says.



ACTONIANS add to arena staff's daily duck feeding with food of their own. The birds remain in open water above the dam this winter.



FAIRY LAKE'S wildfowl population have no shelter this winter, and they often get sympathetic handouts from their neighbours.



Pop Main Pat Collett Ed McMullen

On the street interviews

The Free Press went out on the streets Thursday to find out what the people of Acton think about the Fairy Lake ducks. Most everyone liked the idea of having the ducks, but some were concerned that there were too many.

Betty Quinn was all in favour of the ducks. "I like them. My little girl used to feed them, until the signs

went up. For what it costs to keep them it's worth it."

"I like them," agreed Pat Collett. "It is worth keeping them." Mrs. Collett did not know what should be done with the ducks in the winter.

A gentleman who preferred to remain anonymous said "We've got too many. It makes miserable water for swimmers. Having some

ducks is nice."

"Nice to have around," was Ed McMullen's opinion. "They should quit feeding them in the fall so they'll go south," he continued.

Pop Main was outspoken. "It was put up as a sanctuary and they should keep it that way. If the town's too poor to keep the ducks they should be ashamed of themselves."

Obituary

Wm. Ballentine in 90th year

William Norman Ballentine passed away at the Hyde Park Nursing Home, Guelph, on Monday, Feb. 7, in his 90th year. He was the beloved husband of Mary Dearing and the dear father of Ross, Acton, Roy, Georgetown; Leslie of

Stratford and Kenneth (Bud) deceased.

He was a loving grandfather to ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Ballentine was born in Erin township and farmed on

the homestead after his marriage until 1953, when he retired to Acton. In 1960 he and his wife located in Guelph. He was the last remaining son of Tom Ballentine and Ellen Acheson.

The six grandsons were pall bearers.

Service was conducted by their minister of Dublin-United Church, Rev. Russel Crossley. The committal service was conducted after the service.

Spring burial will be at Huxley Cemetery, Hillsburgh.

The ladies of Dublin St. Church served a luncheon for the friends and relatives who had attended.

Jack Wilson

Friends of Jack Wilson will be sorry to hear of his passing away. He had not been in good health for the past year and was hospitalized Oct. 25 and passed away Dec. 20.

He was born on lot 12, concession 5 in Nassagaweya in 1905, only son of John M. Wilson and Hannah C. Player. He moved with his parents to lot 13 and later farmed on his own on lot 14. He was a recognized purebred Yorkshire hog producer and was well known in this field. He was a member of Nassagaweya Church and superintendent of the Sunday school for 15 years.

Retiring from farming in 1969, he moved to 35 Church St., Acton and attended church here, later becoming a member. He was employed by Pinkertons as a security guard and also did carpenter work on his own.

He is survived by four sisters, Mrs. J. J. Kennedy (Velma) Milton, Mrs. Neil Martin (Margaret) Georgetown, Mrs. Chris Frank (Mary) Massagaweya and Mrs. Albert Harris (Vera) Acton.

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Authority rules

No house below floodline

A house eight feet below the floodline of the Credit River in Glen Williams?

No, says the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, even though Mayor Tom Hill's house is also eight feet in the floodplain.

An application to build by Richard West of Terra Cotta was turned down at a recent CVCA executive meeting with Mayor Hill arguing all the way.

The building site would be located well below flood plain limits, according to Authority staff. The Main St. property is not far from Hill's own residence.

"I've never seen water on that property in 50 or 60 years," growled the mayor. "I'm eight feet in the floodplain but I've never had water in my basement."

Chairman Grant, Clarkson wanted to know the effect the proposed papermill dam removal would have on the

property. Staff engineer, Basil Noles replied effects were expected to be minimal, but the report wouldn't be completed until late spring. The CVCA originally disapproved land severance of the property. Severance was granted by the town, conditional to approval by the Authority. Member, Ken Whillans retorted, "We can't go back on our decision, now."

"Well, we've changed our minds before," grumbled Hill to which the chairman replied heatedly.

"We've never approved a house in the floodplain if the openings couldn't all be above the water line."

"If we approve this, we'll have a flood of applications," pointed out Whillans.

"We might as well stay home," agreed Clarkson.

A motion to deny the application was carried, Mayor Hill's being the only dissenting vote.

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