

'Fantastic' site of outdoor ed. close by for AHS students

They look different. Those few high school students who go to class dressed like a tiny union of seasoned construction workers rather than the smoothly flowing mass of fashionably attired recipients of wisdom.

In winter they wore heavy clothing: flannel shirts and hydro boots. Snowshoes and knapsacks were common. A hunting knife or two were not out of place.

So distinct from the main student body is this class that one member, Cliff Britton, felt like an outsider when he returned to Acton High School. He recorded the sensation:

"It really feels funny going back to school in these clothes and everyone looks at you as if you're an alien. Well maybe I am. Maybe I'm an alien from another world, a fantastic world where everyone works with everyone else, helping out, enjoying each other and just being a family. The best world that I've ever been in."

That other world, that fantastic world where everyone co-operates in a pastoral socialist's dream, is found some five miles northwest of town. A mile or so north of Highway 7. On the Everton Road. On the east side.

Most mornings students are picked up in a van at the high school, and returned there each afternoon. Sometimes in winter a few of them skied or snowshoed to the site.

A mail box by the driveway identifies the inhabitants as the Tamblin Family. The drive leads into a yard which is bordered by a red brick farm house, a barn and a couple of sheds. One shed houses the class' meeting and work rooms.

Unique mechanism

Halton's outdoor education courses are examples of the maxim: It's not so much what you do, but how you do it that counts. The courses, one here and another based in Burlington's Lord Elgin School, use traditional Ministry of Education content, according to Halton Board of Education assistant co-ordinator of Pure Science John Pettit. He also pointed out the main difference between in class education and these experimental approaches: "It's a unique scheduling mechanism that lets kids see things first hand instead of learning of them indirectly in the classroom."

To put it another way, classroom variety students read how 19th century pioneers made bed covers, or how lumbermen handled cross-cut saws, or how environmentalists of the 1960's will trap cheap heat; Paul Tamblin's class learned to make quilts, to saw logs and built a solar energy unit, a wind generator and erected a green house.

Lord Elgin's program is the

only one in the province trying to integrate courses, except in upper education or in biology, according to Roger Simon of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at Toronto.

The four courses offered in Paul Tamblin's program are about as integrated or more so than Lord Elgin's program.

Outdoor students learn quickly too. One week after Paul Tamblin's students toured Eldon Comfort's sugar bush and maple syrup operation on R.R. 4, they were boiling down their own amber colored brew on a wood-fired Harriston stove.

Where does sugaring off fit into the high school curriculum? Possibly under alternative lifestyles, one of four credits under the one teacher, Paul Tamblin. The others are physical education, man and technology and environmental studies.

In addition to the cosmetic differences of dress and distance between the main body of students and the outdoor education members, the latter have a feeling of unity.

Class cliques

In school, class members usually don't feel bonded together into a whole. Individuals and cliques range in temperament from friends, to classmates to enemies.

"We're all outdoorsmen it's plain to see", wrote Britton in another entry of his daily journal. Everyone keeps a journal or log; it's one way for Tamblin to mark. At least one member felt that forming of small groups within the class was a threat to unity.

Laurie Pierce wrote: "There also is a problem of groups being formed. Since we are a community everybody should work with everybody else."

As far as the teachers go, outdoor education seems to ask less of them to produce on demand a steady stream of imaginative constructive projects, intellectual stimulation and discipline.

In the course at Lord Elgin, there's one teacher for each of the four credits. Here all the responsibility is with one man, Paul Tamblin.

Paul Tamblin, or Doc as he's known, describes his role as that of a guide. "It's to keep them on track, to help them get started and once they are, it's hard to keep

them back," he said.

Farming background

Doclor Tamblin, with a Ph.D. on protein structures from the University of Guelph, lives with wife Margaret, a former AHS teacher and their three kids on the farm. Margaret Tamblin helps teach in Doc's course.

The slightly-framed and tanned 32-year-old Doc taught for six years before taking a half-year leave of absence last fall from AHS because of fatigue. Partly because of his farming background, he got a job on Keith Black's farm (another AHS teacher) in Eramosa township.

The outdoor education course, which started in January, can be seen as a logical stepping stone from when Doc Tamblin and teacher-friend Wally Rowley took open country classes at Queen's University six years ago.

Inspired by what they learned, the pair set up the Outers Club at AHS, then followed that up with the establishment of an Environmental Science course on the Grade 12 level. The course, which spends as much time as possible outside, is taught by Wally Rowley.

A bid to set up a satellite course up north fell through, and this year high costs of transportation to the Mountsberg Program at Lord Elgin spelled the end of a planned involvement by Acton students.

When Keith Black offered one of his farms for the course, Doc took it.

Not well rested

Doc has high aims for the students in his course. "I want kids to learn to be less of a drain and more of a contribution to society", he said. "I'd like them to feel more in control of their lives, rather than being swept along. To achieve these aims, he drives them hard. "I guarantee they don't go home bored or well-rested," said Doc.

Forty-three applications came in to take Doc's course; however, just under half that number were accepted. Many of the girls and boys are senior students. Students who missed out this year may have another crack at the course next time.

If nothing else, at the end, the 19 students in the course will have developed a warm

sense of community. They can look upon themselves as a unit, and they'll be able to look outside the group and acknowledge the help they received.

For example Bert and Stu Robertson gave their time and knowledge so that the students would know how to sharpen, set and use cross cut saws. The Bayne family—Ruth and Harvey—have had some of Doc's future pioneers over to learn the art of quilting. And many other residents have sent magazines and other reading material to the Tamblin home.

Who are the students in Doc's day-time commune? In addition to the pair mentioned so far there's Dave Berry, Gerald Burgan, Don Coats, Nicole Field, Cathy Frizzell, Dave Hannah, Karen Hinkley, John Hogenbirk, Les Jones, Gwen Kirkwood, Ronald Kuiken, Neale MacMillan, Margaret McTrash, Martin Trueman, Richard Van Fleet, Janice Vassallo and Peter Zions.

What's it going to be like for residents of this other world, the fantastic world, when they return for good to the gleaming world of polished steel and marble?

"I'll be a better student", said Peter Zions. "You get in class and you develop a hardness. Now I'm so much aware."



MARTIN TRUEMAN restrings one of his snowshoes, one of the projects in the Outdoor Education Class. The class is based on Keith Black's farm on the Everton Road, about five miles from the high school.

Open house at Doc's

An open house will be held tomorrow at the outdoor education farm on the Everton Road.

The AHS course, first of its kind in north Halton, has inspired student projects like a wind generator, plastic greenhouse, a solar collector and other projects. Many projects are on display.

Hours for the open house are 1:35 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Course instructor Dr. Paul Tamblin will be on hand.

The following Tuesday the 19 students in the course will carry some of their learning to AHS for breakfast. Home made pancakes, butter and maple syrup will be served by the crew to fellow students. All cooking will be done on a large wood-burning Harriston stove, which will be moved to the school for the special occasion.

Check
The Acton Free Press
Classifieds for good buys.
Sell it too. Dial 853-2010

WANTED!

For Garage Sale

ANY PORTABLE ITEMS

- Toys • Books • Records • Small Appliances • Sporting Goods • Tools • Etc.

NO CLOTHING PLEASE

Deliver to: St. Joseph's Church
Tues. or Thurs. 7-8 or call
853-0744, 853-2225, 853-2806, 853-2873

For Pick-Up

• SALE •
Sat. April 30 - 1:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church

Sponsored By
Canadian Cancer Society
Acton Branch

Erin water rates hike

The cost of water will increase by 25 per cent with a decision last week by Erin council.

Except for a small increase which paid for the water tower, the recent increase is the first in 20 years for the village.

Deputy-Reeve Bill Weber said residents are using twice as much water as they did in 1957, but they are not paying for it. Maintenance and repair costs, from winter damage to the water system, were also cited as reasons for the increase.

Erin water rates hike

The cost of water will increase by 25 per cent with a decision last week by Erin council.

Except for a small increase which paid for the water tower, the recent increase is the first in 20 years for the village.

Deputy-Reeve Bill Weber said residents are using twice as much water as they did in 1957, but they are not paying for it. Maintenance and repair costs, from winter damage to the water system, were also cited as reasons for the increase.

Erin water rates hike

The cost of water will increase by 25 per cent with a decision last week by Erin council.

Except for a small increase which paid for the water tower, the recent increase is the first in 20 years for the village.

Deputy-Reeve Bill Weber said residents are using twice as much water as they did in 1957, but they are not paying for it. Maintenance and repair costs, from winter damage to the water system, were also cited as reasons for the increase.

Erin water rates hike

The cost of water will increase by 25 per cent with a decision last week by Erin council.

Except for a small increase which paid for the water tower, the recent increase is the first in 20 years for the village.

Deputy-Reeve Bill Weber said residents are using twice as much water as they did in 1957, but they are not paying for it. Maintenance and repair costs, from winter damage to the water system, were also cited as reasons for the increase.

CARPETING and UPHOLSTERY CLEANED

For an expert job

Call the Experts!!!

Loose Rugs	Wall To Wall and Upholstery
Up to 12' x 12' \$15.00	CLEANED IN YOUR HOME
Up to 20' x 20' \$19.95	Free Estimates. Pick up and Delivery
Runners up to 12' x 4' \$7.00	
Mats 2' x 4' \$4.00	
Shag and Wool \$2.00 Extra	

STEAM CLEANING METHOD
853-3930
A.C.C. CARPET CLEANING
5 Main St. N. Acton

Firestone

RAIN service days

Tune-up

Includes: NEW PLUGS, NEW POINTS, NEW CONDENSER, NEW ROTOR. We also adjust timing and carburetor. Lubricate heat riser valve. Check distributor cap, cooling system hoses, spark plug wires, coil, PCV valve, air filter and gas line filter.

4 cyl. \$34⁹⁵
6 cyl. \$39⁹⁵
8 cyl. \$44⁹⁵

PARTS & LABOUR INCLUDED. CARS ONLY

FRONT WHEEL ALIGNMENT

\$12⁹⁵ MOST CARS

No extra charge for air conditioning or torsion bar adjustment. Correct caster-camber, set toe-in and toe-out, adjust steering box and centre steering wheel.

Brake Service

FRONT DISC RELINE 20,000 Mile Firestone prorated warranty	4 WHEEL DRUM RELINE 20,000 MILE Firestone prorated warranty	DRUM/DISC RELINE 20,000 MILE Firestone prorated warranty
--	--	---

\$34⁹⁵ \$42⁹⁵ \$58⁹⁵

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

OIL CHANGE and LUBRICATION

Oil, Oil Filter, Grease and Labour Included

8⁸⁸

FOR MOST AMERICAN CARS

Firestone Stores
USE OUR FIRESTONE CREDIT PLAN OR

Milton School of Driving
D.O.T. O.S.L.
Approved Instructor
Dual Controls. Fully Insured
CALL GEO. BAIRD 878-4018

FOR ALL OF CANADA'S BUILDING NEEDS

MACKENZIE BUILDALL

GEORGETOWN 8 James St. 877-2207
ACTON 12 Church St. 853-1860

Thrifty Dinner for \$1.00

REGULAR \$1.55

Two days only!
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY \$1.00

SAVE 55¢

APRIL WEDNESDAY 20
APRIL THURSDAY 21

Circle your calendar right now. Because for two days only you can pick up Colonel Sanders' Thrifty Dinner for just one dollar. It's chicken the way you and the family like it, finger lickin' good! The Thrifty Dinner contains 2 pieces of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Golden Brown French Fries, Creamy Cole Slaw and a slice of Grecian bread.

Kentucky Fried Chicken
Colonel Sanders' boys and girls make it "finger lickin' good"

chicken Villa
Main & Commercial MILTON 878-4171-2
Daily 11:30 - 8 PM, Fri. & Sat. 11:30 - Midnight

MOORE PARK PLAZA GEORGETOWN 877-5119

GUARD YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH AND BUDGET

GUARDIAN DRUGS

PRICES EFFECTIVE UNTIL APRIL 30

GIFTS, CARDS & WRAPS for Mother's Day

'RETURN TO ELEGANCE' SOAP 4 BARS FOR 89¢

'ONE-SIZE' PANTY HOSE 2 PR. 89¢

Always a welcome gift! TURTLES 277 14 oz. Box

STYLISH COOL-RAY POLARIZED SUN GLASSES 20% OFF

NEW! CLAIROL GENTLE LIGHTS For medium brown and darker hair 299

SYLVANIA FLIP FLASH for use with all flip flash cameras 199

CURAD BONUS PACK 60 BANDAGES plus 15 FREE 99¢

DENTU CREME 100 ML 83¢

GERITOL BONUS PACK Extra 14-day supply 94 TABLETS FOR THE PRICE OF 80 399

DIGEL 170 ML LIQUID OR 30 TABLETS 99¢

Acton Pharmacy Ltd.
Corner Mill and Main Sts. * Acton * 853-1620