

Camping trip, historical tour combined for M.Z. students

Last week, grade seven students of M.Z. Bennett school, their teachers and a few adults from the community braved a three day camping trip, and tour of the Midland-Wasaga Beach area.

Teachers Brad Fisher and Dave Boycott, Mr. Boycott's father Robert from Oakville, music teacher Gwen Lush, Don Coats an Acton high school Mountsberg course student; Carole Saxon, a high school student and Celia Saxon, a parent, organized 61 youths each day, counting heads, making sure lights were out, overseeing meals, etc.

Mrs. Saxon was never very far from her camera, and captured some of the more interesting aspects of the trip on film. She also arranged to have students write stories on various sections of their trip. Each event was written twice, by each of the two classes.

In some instances, the Free Press has amalgamated the two similar stories. In others, only one tale was selected. Because some students did not put down their last name, or any name at all, it was necessary to omit all names. However, each of the 61 students played a part in the following stories.

The bus trip
We packed up the back of the bus, then we all got on the bus. We were all packed on the bus like sardines and had to fit three to a seat and at the back we had three extra seats laid across the aisle.

When we finally got going, we were singing and having fun! Some people brought comic books, radios and tape recorders to keep them busy.

When we were getting off to visit the neat stuff they had planned for us, the girls always got off first, and they had to climb over us.

On the way home, everything was falling on our heads and everyone was trying to sleep. Our bus driver's name was George, but we called him Gorgeous Gorgy.

Reforestation area tour
We arrived at the reforestation area near Barrie on Wednesday morning. The guide showed us a slide show of the grounds and how they shipped trees. Then we went back into the bus and had a tour of the grounds. She showed us one-year-old spruce trees with shades over them. At two years old, the shades are removed.

We then rode on the bus and stopped at a forest of spruce, 13 years of age. We also

learned of giant windbreaks that protect the fields from wind and snow. At the end of the trip, each person was given a three-year-old Norway spruce to take home and plant. We collected them on Monday, June 13, three days after the trip.

Springwater Park
We arrived at Springwater Provincial Park, just outside Barrie at 11.30 a.m. We had lunch there and after lunch went to explore. There were a number of small bridges going over streams and there was a little paddlewheel. At the park there was also a small zoo.

The most interesting thing was the animals. The fish, carp and trout, the black bear, coyote and ducks, green headed mallard, skunk and a porcupine. A few swans, beavers, deer, rabbits, squirrels, peacocks, a bobwhite and three owls. A few ponds and a water wheel and little bridges so you could cross the ponds, look down and see fish and ducks.

We ran around the park and looked at the animals for a couple of hours. Then we all climbed on the bus and left for Simcoe County Museum.

The museum
We arrived at the Simcoe County Museum, also just outside of Barrie, on June 9, about two p.m. We then got off the bus and went to our group leaders. As soon as we walked in the door, everyone ran to buy souvenirs. Then we all went to look around the museum. We saw Indian displays with tools, clothes, etc. Later we saw 19th century clothing, tools and glass dishes. It was really interesting because some of our pottery and tools are made of the same idea. Then we went into a long hall where we saw a

doctor's office, dressmakers room, cobbler shop and a general store. Later on we went outside and saw some old buildings with 19th century furniture and tools. We think this was an interesting day.

Camping at Bass Lake
First day
We finally arrived at our campsite in Bass Lake Provincial Park, outside of Orillia, after visiting the Simcoe County Museum. We unloaded the bus and truck and began to set up camp. All the tents were put up and everyone started supper. After supper we played various games. The teachers started a bonfire and we all sat around and sang songs. It was soon 10 p.m. and everyone hit the hay. BUT—hardly anyone went to sleep. The racket was so loud that the people who wanted to, couldn't get to sleep even if they tried. We finally settled down and everyone fell asleep.

Second day
Brilliant Murray Dalton woke up to the image of Tarzan and with the assistance of Wayne Kurtz, woke everyone else up at five a.m. One of our leaders, Don Coats was still lying on the ground, shivering in his sleeping bag at six a.m. when a couple of girls decided to wake him up. Well, they succeeded. We woke up and in astonishment, and we all started breakfast. After breakfast, we were all on our way to a full day of tours and excitement. We returned to camp, finished supper, did our logs and played previous games.

After the games, we all practised skits and that night we had a small show around the camp fire. We were having a Gong Show, with Mr.

Fisher being the announcer Chuck Harris and Mr. Boycott assisting him by throwing some of his good, but bad jokes.

The successful winner was Wayne Kurtz, dressed up as Farah Fawcett with the hilarious hit of the night with the comment, "My legs are what make me so sexy".

Now it was time to go to bed, so we hit the sack. Suddenly (an hour later), we heard sounds. Something, (or someone) was walking in the grass behind our tent. We went out to investigate and there in the tall grass stood a skunk. We didn't bother to chase it off for fear it might give off its unpleasant scent and also because we knew it meant no harm.

Then, again the sound arose. This time, one of our tent mates, (Sharon Dalton) thought she would scare it off because she was getting tired of the little mongrel bugging us. She jumped out of the tent determined to chase the stinker away. Then we heard a shriek and there came Sharon diving over Cindy, another tentmate. As she calmed down she kept saying, "I'm going to get that little stinker. He stole our marshmallows."

Third day
We all got up fairly late and were late in packing up and getting out of there. We did so and left at ten a.m. in full excitement in hopes to get home soon.

Martyrs' Shrine
The Martyrs' Shrine, in Midland, was a beautiful church. We learned about the eight saints who were tortured by the Iroquois from Father McEiverna. After our talk in the church, we were allowed to go to the gift store,

which was full of people, but it was nice.

Fart Replia
We went to Sainte Marie Among the Hurons, outside of Midland, on Thursday, June 9. When we arrived there, we went into the theatre to see a movie about how the Hurons used to live centuries ago.

Then the movie was over, the doors under the screen went up and we saw the villagers where the natives used to live in. We had a guide take us around the houses and churches, etc. He told us the history of them.

Then we were to go to a museum, but the electricity was turned off, so we sat out by the garden and talked about how they used to plant their corn and tobacco. Then we went on to our other sites.

Nancy Island
We arrived on Thursday afternoon at the Museum of the Upper Lakes on Nancy Island at Wasaga Beach, and saw the remains of HMS Nancy which sank in the area. We went up to the top of a replica of a light house.

Then we saw some slides that showed how and why the Nancy sank. These slides were very interesting.

We went to the museum and there they had all about boats. We also saw cannons and a lighthouse bell, which we rang diligently.

Wye Marsh
The Wye Marsh, between Barrie and Midland was the last place we went. There we saw a film of life in a marsh. It tells how the animals and reptiles adapt to other reptiles and animals.

After that, everyone had to have rubber boots on. We divided into two groups, and each went to a different marsh. We took nets, and

bowls to catch them in. We caught water bugs, snakes, snails, tadpoles just developing into frogs, turtles and others. People looked through a glass underwater window. In the lobby, we saw a bee sanctuary, aquariums of different reptiles and posters.

The other group visited a beaver pond and got to walk on a real beaver dam. They found a snipe nest with four brown speckled eggs right on the ground. After then we went back on the bus and went home.



M.Z. BENNETT music teacher Gwen Lush, centre, found a quiet moment with Lynn McCord, left, and Ken Genoe to study wild flowers with a book she brought with her. They were on a tour of the Georgian Bay area last week.

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The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, June 15, 1977 B5

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SOME DAYS THEIR teachers just might feel like locking up these grade 7 students, who monkeyed around in an old-fashioned jail at the Simcoe County Museum last week. M.Z. Bennett grade 7 students and their teachers spent three days in the Midland-Wasaga Beach area, taking in the historical sites.

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Robert Little
by Sharon Hendricks
The last two weeks of school will be spent working on final marks, graduation and planning a move to the new middle school.

Last Friday 70 tired, happy graduating students returned from a four day trip in Ottawa. They had an enjoyable time visiting the Parliament Buildings, several museums and historical sites.

The grade 6 students visited the African Lion Safari, and Wentworth Pioneer Village on Friday, June 10. Everyone had a great day.

The grade 5 classes are journeying to Mountsberg on Wednesday and Thursday for science studies.

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