

Harvest Festival at Mountsberg

Harvest Time, the final fall program of 1977 at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre features family-centred activities. The program is carried out each weekend in October, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A pioneer flavor is offered by a steam-run cider making operation. A steam engine which dates back to 1920 has been loaned to the centre by Jim Cleave of Georgetown. Gordon Bridgen of Hornby has loaned the centre his steam boiler, which dates back to about 1918.

Victor Hall of R.R. 3, Milton, is operating the steam engine and boiler for the centre. The engine, now being used to run the apple mulcher, was originally used to run the saws in a sawmill, Mr. Hall said. He is burning wood to generate the steam. The boiler is equipped with a steam whistle, which should attract visitors to the sugar bush, where the cider pressing demonstrations are given.

The apple mulcher and press are replicas of those used in the 19th century, said Ann Hughes, assistant education co-ordinator for Mountsberg. The iron parts of the equipment are authentic.

A mixture of several varieties of apples is used for the cider. They are apples which have fallen to the ground, and are obtained from a local farm. The apples are first put in the mulcher, which crushes

the apples to a pulp. The pulp, called "pomace" is put into a hand-operated press, which squeezes out the juice. Leftover pulp is fed to the pigs.

During the weekends, the centre will be selling apple butter and bulk cider. The bulk cider has soda added and will keep in the refrigerator for some time, according to Gary Hutton, the centre's education co-ordinator. Cider without soda begins to ferment very quickly, he said. It will, however, keep in the fridge up to a week.

In keeping with the apple theme, apple pancakes will be available for visitors at the Applejack House, also located in the maple bush. An authentic corn chopper, like the one the early settlers may have used to produce feed for their livestock, will be demonstrated.

Horse-drawn wagons will transport visitors to the apple festival area, while tractor-drawn wagons will take them across woodlands and along the lake. Rides will leave every hour on the hour. Visitors will have an opportunity to see a variety of autumn colors as leaves reach their peak of color in mid-October. Along the pond they'll be able to see migrating ducks and geese.

The interpretive program will feature films, slides, and talks on conservation and wildlife topics. Banding demonstrations will be provided and the centre's

resident owl Oscar will once again be used to demonstrate some of the talks.

About 2,000 ducks are banded at Mountsberg annually, Ms. Hughes said. They are caught in special traps, banded and released. As well as providing information about migratory patterns banding gives data about population numbers and age.

Birds are particularly sensitive to changes in the environment, Ms. Hughes said. As a result, information gathered about banded fowl can be used to monitor the state of the environment.

Information about banded fowl is collected in Ottawa and Washington and distributed to the wildlife centres which do the banding. For example, if a hunter shoots a banded duck, the band is returned to the Ottawa centre.

Entrance fees to Mountsberg are \$2.50 per car. Mountsberg is reached via Five Sideroad from Campbellville. The centre is located on the Town Line.



ANN HUGHES, assistant education co-ordinator at Mountsberg, demonstrates apple crushing, the first step of pioneer method of making cider. Victor Hall looks on.

Suspect

An alert caretaker at Blue Springs Scout Reserve, Sixth Line Nassagaweya thwarted an attempted break-in last week.

The caretaker heard banging noises coming from one of the campsheds, Halton Regional Police report. When the man went to investigate, he saw a red haired male standing between the suspect's vehicle and the shed.

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CVCA: Illegal parking must be stopped

Illegal parking outside Terra Cotta Conservation Area and the consequent traffic hazard, concerns the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, a recent Parks and Recreation Advisory board meeting brought out.

Up to 100 cars are left on the Town Line near the main entrance to the park on many Sundays say Authority staff, although there are no parking signs placed in the area.

"Have no police been contacted on these busy days," inquired member Gail Maltby. "Can't the Authority phone police and make them aware of the problem..."

General Manager Harry Watson commented the area supervisor stated more parking was needed in the park.

"Isn't there overuse of the park already... Why are we talking about increasing parking..." complained Authority chairman Grant Clarkson.

Staff members explained the park gates have been closed by 12:30 p.m. most Sundays because of full parking lots. However, people still park on the road and come over the fence, it was said. A park staff member felt the number of people using the park was at limit already and police were not doing their job.

"What good are the police if they don't do their job..." queried Georgetown's Tut Harrison.

At a suggestion the Authority put up a road sign, he mumbled, "I don't think half of them can read."

Authority members felt a policeman should be stationed in front of the park on busy days to move people on rather than just ticket already parked cars.

A motion was made to contact Peel and Halton police for suggestions and assistance.

Family health course offered in Georgetown

The Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch will be offering a Family Health Course commencing Thursday, October 20th.

This course is designed to provide basic instruction towards a Healthy Family Unit. Qualified volunteer instructors will teach these basics for those interested in the community. Such topics as nutrition, exercise, good hygienic habits, basic nursing skills, basic first aid and utilization of home equipment

will be presented in the eight week course.

A Care of the Sick Manual will be given to the participants and provides an excellent source of reference in the home.

Welcome is extended not only to those taking the course for the first time, but also to those who wish to refresh and update their skills. Inquiries may be made at the Red Cross office in Georgetown or to the Family Health Chairman Tina Yoremy.



BANDED DUCK is set for release at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. Monitoring of banded fowl gives a measure of the state of the environment says Ann Hughes.

Fire Prevention

Halton Hills firefighters have special displays in both Acton and Georgetown libraries Oct. 8 and 15 where home fire drills are being stressed; open houses Oct. 20 and 27 at the Georgetown fire hall featuring fire extinguisher and rescue demonstrations; and the official opening of the new fire department headquarters Sunday, Oct. 30. Throughout the month all schools will be inspected. Halton Hills firefighters are also promoting home fire inspections, on request.

Taxi driver hurt in mishap

An early Saturday morning traffic mishap on Cobblehill Road sent a taxi driver to Georgetown Hospital.

Theresa Youngson of Bramalea, was at the wheel of the Reliable Taxi. She received minor injuries from the accident, police say.

A second car involved, which police say was parked, is owned by Paul Kerrivan of 66 Cobblehill Rd.

Police put the damage to the taxi at about \$850. Damage to the car was estimated at \$750 by police.

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Tennis resurfacing

Resurfacing of the Gordon Alcott tennis courts will cost over \$10,000.

Halton Hills council approved awarding of the tender to Plinkote, Canada, at a cost of \$10,421.84, Monday night.

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