

# Winter enthusiasts flock to Cedar Creek Farm



NO, HE'S NOT a member of the Beatles, but he is from Liverpool. Bernie Phillips teaches cross country skiing at Cedar Creek Farm, a recreation centre situated north of Rockwood.

by Jennifer Barr  
Cedar Creek Farm, north of Rockwood, is growing by leaps and bounds. Rick and Donna Leeming, originators of the educational farm, have bought another farm near the new Guelph dam at Eramosa and turned it into an equestrian centre and a mecca for cross country skiers.

Judging by the response these past winter weekends, the success of Cedar Creek Centre is guaranteed.

Considering that they've been in business somewhat less than three years, the growth of the Leemings establishment is phenomenal. Backed by grants from the Toronto Board of Education (Rick is on staff), the original farm on the Sixth Line just above Rockwood, provided a place for nature classes for Toronto school children. The 100 acre farm is still just that.

The Leemings and their two children run the farm as an education program both winter and summer and rarely have an unbooked day. Between 40 and 60 school children visit daily between 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. to enjoy the many animals. Donkeys, ponies, pigs and chickens receive lots of fuss as the children learn first hand what purpose the individual animals play in farm life.

As far as productive livestock, the animals just about pay for themselves, according to Donna Leeming.

The children are divided into two groups and take turns working in the airframe on horseback over at the equestrian centre, or skiing cross country.

Each child is given some very basic horsemanship instruction by Anne Harding

and then allowed to ride on a restraining line in order to get the feel of horseback.

Cross country skiing instruction is given by Bernie Phillips.

Summer programs include orienteering, nature hikes and summer camps.

Expansion to New Farm

Now that Cedar Creek has expanded to include another 100 acre farm on the new dam road, work for the staff of eight has doubled.

On weekends when the equestrian centre is not used by the school children, the facilities are open to the public.

Cross country ski trails are open, skis and boots may be rented and instruction is available. Rentals cost \$7 per day including trail fee.

Horses also may be rented but the instructors are very careful to test each aspiring equestrian for ability and knowledge. Only those with adequate horsemanship training receive a certificate and may take the horses out on led rides for \$4 an hour.

Neophytes may ride in the covered arena under carefully supervised conditions for \$6 an hour.

The 12 school horses may be ridden either English or Western style and are very quietly trained. Roy Ineson, a well-known area horseman from Limehouse, provided all the horses.

In addition to the school horses, seven boarding horses fill the stables, keeping equestrian supervisor Anne Harding busy.

Instruction in both skiing and riding is available in the evenings as well.

When the farm facilities are not in use by the Toronto

school board, Guelph schools are free to visit and they certainly are making use of the privilege, according to Donna Leeming.

Qualified Staff

The staff manning the entire establishment all have training in teaching or the humanities.

Assistant director Olivo Soppelsa, who has been with the farm for the two years of operation, was a child care worker. Other staff members have had training in outdoor education, recreation leadership, or regular teaching.

Ski instructor Bernie Phillips used to train army soldiers in wilderness survival techniques and cross-country skiing. It was also a pleasure for this Liverpool

native to find he hailed from the same neck of the woods.

With public response excellent, Cedar Creek Farm is in danger of making a profit, something a public funded organization must never do. However, according to Mrs. Leeming, there's not as much danger of this as it seems. Any profit is immediately plowed back into expanding the farm.

Construction plans include a permanent indoor arena, furnished lounge area and snack bar among other things.

With the new equestrian centre and ski trails attracting so many winter enthusiasts, Cedar Creek Farm may keep expanding for some time yet.



WANT TO RENT a horse? Anne Harding brings one of the Cedar Creek Farm mounts in from the field for riding lessons. The educational farm north of Rockwood features riding instruction, cross country skiing and rentals of both.



A few weeks before Christmas some recipes appeared in this column - mainly because my brain wasn't in gear and ideas escaped me. Never has a column been so well received. According to the calls and comment that cake and those chocolates were produced all up and down the country. I wonder what on earth I've been doing all these years writing about animals and country life when it's obvious food is what really gets every one excited.

So, with that in mind, here's a couple more. These are very basic things, simple to produce, inexpensive, and light-qualities we're looking for at this time of year.

### Super Soup

Remember the pot of homemade soup Mother used to keep at the back of the woodstove? She popped all her bits of leftovers in it and kept it simmering. It was always hearty on a cold day. Actually, I don't remember this at all - we didn't have a woodstove - but I hear tell of such soup in country type books.

I make a good substitute out of canned consommé, seasonings, and vegetables.

Pop a couple of cans of soup in a pot, add two cans water, and chop up any vegetables you have in the fridge, plus some frozen mixed veg. All sorts of things can go in - stewed tomatoes (or fresh), mushrooms, green onions, celery, cabbage (shredded) carrot chunks, turnip strips, green beans. It looks more homey if the vegetables are cut in large diagonal slices. Season with parsley, pepper, a little salt (taste it as it simmers) and anything else your little heart desires. This soup is only about 50 calories a cup if you use low calorie vegetables.

It can also be beefed up with meat, chicken, rice, macaroni - all bubbling along nicely - getting better as it gets older.

### Liverpool pasties

These are a northern relative of the Cornish pastie and I think I invented them. If I didn't, please don't tell me. Make a pastry with four cups flour, two cups shortening, and one cup water. Flavour the pastry with salt, chives, parsley, and parmesan cheese.

Brown a couple of pounds of hamburger, pouring off the fat, and stir in a pound or so of mixed vegetables, a couple of chopped browned onions, and anything else you have in those extra margarine containers in the fridge. Add a can of soup, veg. juice, or water and simmer for a while with a small handful of salt (a tablespoon), a teaspoon of pepper, a little garlic powder or rosemary.

Thicken the sauce with cornstarch, (it should be quite thick) and let the filling cool while you chill the pastry. Go clean the barn or something until you're ready to make the pasties.

Roll the pastry out and cut into circles. I use one of those handy margarine containers for that (what would we ever do without them). Place a dollop of cooled filling on circle and fold over, pinch edges to make a half-moon shaped turnover. Prick with fork and bake at 400 degrees until brown. These may be frozen very satisfactorily and reheated at 350 degrees.

For vegetarians, I also make a filling of mushrooms and grated cheese with some veg. es and gravy - jolly good.

This column has made me so hungry I may be forced to break my diet.

**Elora grant**  
A Provincial grant of \$251,500 will be provided the Grand River Conservation Authority to continue the development of the Elora Gorge Conservation Area.

The Authority will undertake work which includes

**Eramosa man**  
George Lindblad was named as one of Eramosa Township's fence viewers during township council's first meeting of the year January 9.

the relocation of the maintenance area, reconstruction of picnic shelters, washrooms, campsites, roads, parking areas, fencing and trails. Construction will also include an interpretive centre, play areas and landscaping.

Elora Gorge Conservation Area is situated 12 miles northwest of Guelph on the southern outskirts of Elora Village at the junction of the Irvine and Grand Rivers. It comprises some 230 acres.

## Faulty pipes blamed

Faulty smoke pipes leading from an oil furnace were named as the cause of a fire which took the life of Rob Hindmarsh in mid-December near Erin.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's office traced the fire's cause to the pipes.

Hillsburgh Fire Chief Bob

Cheyne said investigators discovered the pipes were plugged in the basement of the 83-year-old farm house.

Hindmarsh, who was 35 years old, was the son of Toronto Star director Harry Hindmarsh.

No inquest is planned into the December 16 blaze.

## Lions buy site for Guides

Three years of persistent land hunting finally paid off for Burlington Nelson Lions Club, following the recent purchase of a 50-acre site at Speyside, to be donated to the Girl Guides of Canada, Lakeshore Division, Burlington for a camp ground.

"We're just delighted with it," said Gwen Warren, Division Commissioner. "It's a magnificent spot."

The land purchase follows a successful appeal to the Niagara Escarpment Commission for a development permit. One year ago, the Lions Club was refused approval to buy the \$32,000 site, for use as a camping ground.

"We hired a lawyer, and with his help and a lot of other people who supported us, we won our case. The Commission could see the girl guides wanted to keep the land in its natural state, and the hearing officer was fairly sympathetic to our views," stated Bruce Hurst, president of Lions Club.

"We admire their courage for pursuing this land deal," said Mrs. Warren with reference to the efforts of the Lions Club.

"We had a fair amount of money, which we were not

spending, and we knew there was a definite need for the Burlington Girl Guides. They have in the past borrowed Camp Manitou from the Burlington Boys Scouts for camping and have used Apple orchards donated by local people as well."

With a \$50,000 budget, Lions began their search for a suitable property. Problems arose however, each time the club selected a piece of property and waited for approval of sale.

"The difficulty lay in zoning restrictions," said Mr. Hurst, adding most sellers could not wait for the necessary time needed for approval of the camp.

The Speyside site was on the market for some time, according to Mr. Hurst, but the owner was unable to sell, owing to Niagara Escarpment Commission restrictions on building.

Although the land will not be officially donated to the Guides until Lions Club has cleared a two year mortgage taken out on the property, the Guides have been given permission to go ahead with plans for the property.

JACK LENNOX, reeve of West Luther township, was elected warden of Wellington County last week. Mr. Lennox has been reeve for seven years, and a township councillor before that.

## Eramosa '78 appointments

Eramosa Planning Board saw one change in membership for the new year.

Township council decided during the first meeting of the new year to replace John Turner with an applicant from R.R. 1, Guelph, E. Beauchamp.

The chairman of the planning board is John Benham. Other members are Allan Osborne, Phillip Greenspan, Maxwell Storey and Arthur Leslie.

Elwood Snow is the Eden Mills liaison member, while

Donald Mathews and Warren Parkinson are alternate committee of adjustment members.

Township Reeve Bill Adsett is a board ex-officio member. On the Guelph and Suburban Planning Board deputy reeve Henry Holman will sit with John Benham. Herbert (Ted) Cargo will sit with the above mentioned members on the Committee of Adjustment.

Council's other choices for other boards and committees will be reported next week.

## Pair hurt in mishap

The driver and a passenger involved in a two-car collision on 22 Sideroad about a half mile east of Highway 7 last Wednesday evening were hurt, according to Halton Regional Police.

Bernice Norton, the driver, of 48 Church St. and passenger Mary Hunter of 190 Churchill Rd. N. suffered

slight injuries in the mishap, according to police. The Norton vehicle was east bound on the road.

## Hazel Mack writes another book

A former resident of Rockwood and Eden Mills has written an informative and interesting book entitled "The Twelve Townships of Wellington County."

Mrs. Hazel L. Mack, a resident of the area for many years and a former restaurant owner in Rockwood, has divided her book into separate chapters for the various townships. Each township is dealt with at length, with obviously a great amount of research done.

Chapters of most interest to those living in this area would be on Eramosa, Erin and Puslinch townships.

Mrs. Mack has mentioned the first settlers in Eramosa township, outlining their early lives in the area. Some names of settlers are still evident in the area, such as Benham, Harris, Hortop, Oakes and Hamilton.

In this chapter the writer gives a brief history of the

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Rockwood Academy, describes Indian Trail, Crewson's Corners, and many existing sites.

The origin of the name Erin is included in that township's chapter. Mrs. Mack gives an account of the pioneer families of the township and some of the earlier town fathers.

The growth of small hamlets such as Ballinacod, Hillsburgh, Erin, Crewson's Corners and Ospringe is also outlined, giving populations, merchants and families.

One family emphasized in this chapter is the Root family, from the early 1800's. Descendants of this family still live on the farm and in the immediate area. The book mentions John Root who was elected in 1961 to represent the riding of Wellington-Dufferin in Leslie Frost's Cabinet. He held this position until just recently.

Other long-time resident families are also mentioned, with a brief history of their backgrounds.

Puslinch township has many interesting tales according to the book. Mrs. Mack has explained the auctioning off of land, the origin of Highway 6, and how the township got its name. Names of early settlers and the story of the "broken leg council" are also interesting.

Crown Cemetery is believed to have been used as far back as 1830, according to the chapter, and readers are introduced to the township ghost. There are short bio-

ographies of Thomas Arkel and Frederick W. Stone also.

Throughout the book there are photographs from various times in the townships' histories. Photos date from 1900 to the 1970's and are of residents still living.

"The Twelve Townships of Wellington County" has just recently been published. The book is not Mrs. Mack's first, as she has written several others, including "The History of Eden Mills and vicinity."

The author is well-known in the area and now lives in Guelph.

## Rockwood man charged

An R.R. 4 Rockwood man has been charged by Halton Regional Police for leaving a local store with unpaid for merchandise.

Police report the man walked out of Canadian Tire Store without paying for the articles.



GAPING charred doors testify to the \$20,000 blaze Sunday at Countryside residence at Hornby.

## \$20,000 damage

## 15 occupants escape fire

The 15 occupants of the Country Side residence of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded were evacuated safely Sunday afternoon when fire broke out.

An estimated \$20,000 damage resulted from the blaze that started in a garage room, where hot embers from a fireplace had been emptied.

By the time firefighters from Georgetown and Milton arrived at the scene, fire had

spread into the concealed space between the ceiling and the roof. Georgetown firefighters remained at the scene for almost three hours.

Residents were accommodated elsewhere for the night.

Fire Safety Office Larry Brassard commented, "This fire makes it very clear that discarded embers from a fireplace should be left outdoors, away from any buildings, so if they do rekindle little damage will be done."