

Great variety of birds, area one of best

by Jeff Harvey
 Aside from the Speyside Forest, in which the predominant species of trees are broad leaved (deciduous), most of the Halton area is made up of both coniferous and deciduous trees. This is advantageous as far as wildlife is concerned because there are animals which occur here from both the areas to the direct south, which are ingenious to deciduous woods, and from the north, which are more suited to occupying coniferous forests.

escarpment to view the outdoors as it should be. In early April, Fairy Lake and Kelo Reservoir (near Milton) are good places for those even remotely interested in birds to find waterfowl. Fairy Lake is a haven for Whistling Swans, and these should be arriving any time now. The Whistling Swan is the smallest of its kind in North America but is also the most numerous. It is the only swan found in eastern Canada.

The lake is also above average for locating ducks, of which the familiar Mallard is the best known. Groups of these ducks overwinter on the lake and have been the sources of controversy for quite a while. (They can't be encouraged to migrate as they have become 'semi-domestic'.)

Canada Geese, too, may overwinter on the lake (where unfrozen parts of it

exist) and these are among this country's most valued gamebirds, known throughout most of this hemisphere. They are protected by law, and rightly so. In Halton County, late March is the best time for finding them. Many other species of water birds pass over the county while many rest sporadically on the open water.

In Kelo there are many species in April, for instance Buffleheads, Blue-Winged Teals, American Widgeon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, and others. So you see that while peak months for woodland birds are late May through June and July (when there is sufficient leaf cover), water birds are most common as soon as the lakes show any sign of melt.

This year, starting in April and concluding in July, I am going to do a very detailed paper on "The Birdlife of the Niagara Escarpment" in Halton County in Spring and Summer. I would be very enthusiastic if local people who do look at birds would assist me by sending any data on birds seen in any vicinity of the escarpment. In fact, any observations made would be more than welcome. The final report will be forwarded to the British Ornithological Society in London, England, as well as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' office in Toronto. I would be doubly thankful if any people would be willing to help me working in the field (outdoors). The Niagara Escarpment is a vast area, even in Halton, and that would leave much work for just one observer.

Much of the work will be done on the Bruce Trail, other data will be obtained from government land. The names of any people who assist me in any way will be included in the paper. People who own cameras with telephoto lenses who photograph birds would aid me in taking photographs. If anyone is at all interested, my address is R.R. 1 Acton L7J-2L7 and my phone number is (519) 853-1778. I would really appreciate your assistance. Next year I will be travelling to England so this report will be made in 1978.



PACERS LEAD THE way Sunday at the Rotary Club's annual Skate-a-thon. Several hundred students from schools in Acton and area participated in the fund raising drive.

Open May 19 set new fees

The fee structure for conservation areas for 1978 have been set by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Fifty campsites have been set aside at Terra Cotta Conservation Area for seasonal camping on a 30 day basis at \$2.00 per day plus regular car entrance fee. Regular camping rates and car entrance fees have been raised at Terra Cotta to \$3. each per day but season's passes are the same at \$25. per year. This means that customers can visit all areas on a daily basis year-round for \$25.

Fees at Monora and Belfountain Conservation Areas remain at \$2.50 per day per car and Meadowvale at \$2. per day. Camping fees at Monora are \$2.50 per day as in 1977.

Bus entrance fee remains at \$20. and walk-in at 25c each per day.

All the Conservation Areas will be open on May 19, 1978 for the holiday weekend and reservations for campsites at Terra Cotta will be accepted from April 1, 1978. Drop a note in the mail to Terra Cotta Conservation Area, General Delivery, Terra Cotta, Ontario.

Belfountain and Monora Conservation Areas offer treed picnic areas, washroom facilities, swimming and open space for games. Meadowvale, with large open flat areas is excellent for group picnics.

Orangeville Reservoir Conservation Area has large pic-

nic areas, a shelter, wash-room facilities and there is no charge for the use of the area.

Terra Cotta Conservation Area has a large shallow swimming pool, excellent for family swimming, treed picnic areas and a concession booth for food and drink. All areas will open on May 19.

Bruce concerned

Concern over Niagara Escarpment Commission proposals is packing meetings in the Bruce peninsula and parts of Grey County.

Over 250 ratepayers jammed the Lion's Head arena auditorium to find out how preliminary proposals affected them. The meeting was called by the newly formed Niagara Escarpment Ratepayers' Association, an organization incorporating all the townships and municipalities on the Bruce peninsula and some townships in Grey. Before the meeting the association signed up over 200 who question the NEC proposals.

Some members of the association believe the NEC's planning area is too large and the commission has no business putting controls on land 14 and 15 miles away from the escarpment.

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CA halts development

Halton Region Conservation Authority has called a halt to development of Crawford Lake Conservation Area. A private group, the Conservation Foundation, has been ready to proceed with fundraising for the first two phases of the project. HRCA members decided it would be preferable to face some embarrassment now than to make a long-term mistake. They plan to meet with the foundation Thursday.

Since HRCA purchased the property in 1969, an Indian Village was discovered in the area. Cost of developing the site, including an educational interpretive centre, roads, parking lots and a gate house, was estimated at \$300,000. Operating costs were estimated at \$45,000.

"I would rather see the area left in a natural state, not put to massive public usage," said Jim Watson, Milton representative to the authority. "That's not the purpose for which it was bought."

"At the time it was bought we didn't know we had an Indian village there," said

chairman Brock Harris.

The property has declined very quickly, reported Bill Warwick, director of conservation services. He said the authority has been unsuccessful in policing and controlling it. Controlling universities who want to remove samples for research has been a problem.

Moreover, the area is known and is attracting an unsavory crowd, Mr. Warwick added. "We have to do something."

During the same meeting the authority continued discussions concerning a proposal to install a concrete "Superslide" at Kelo led to further examination of the authority's purpose. "I don't think we should get into the Disneyland type of amusement at Kelo," said Keith Bird of Oakville.

But several others argued the slide would be a money-making proposition and would offset losses in a bad skiing season.

Staff was requested to provide further information about the slide.

Council review Crawford Lake

Milton Council last week had second thoughts on the Crawford Lake Conservation Area. Council had previously endorsed plans to develop the area.

However, Councillor Jim Watson, who had missed the meeting at which Crawford Lake was discussed, questioned the decision. He said although a private foundation was raising funds for developing the site, the town would have to operate it from municipal levies at a cost of \$20,000 or more annually.

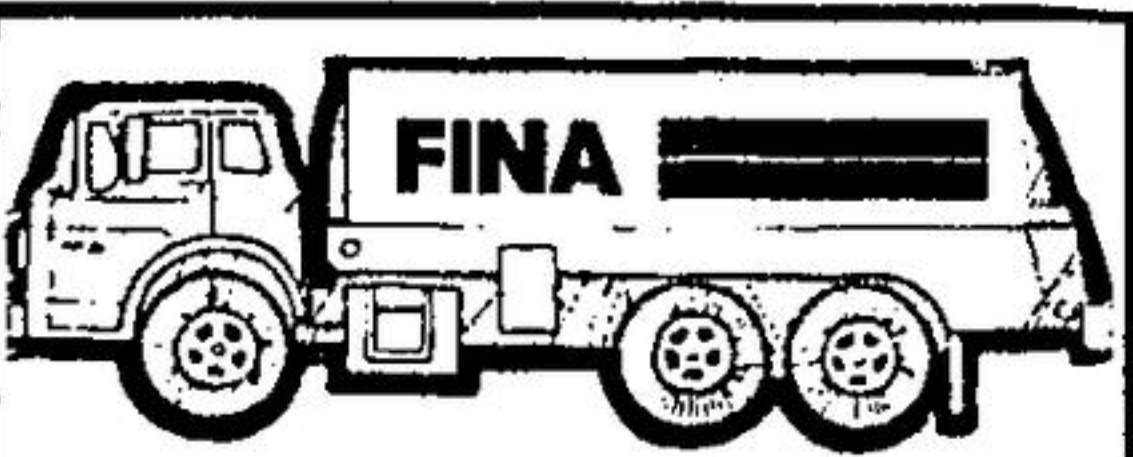
Councillors agreed to approve the plans in principle, subject to the conservation authority entering into a

development agreement with the town.

At the same meeting council heard a request from R. E. Austen of Northgate Farm, Campbellville, for closure of the unopened portion of Fourth Line from Five Sideroad to the back limit of his property. Mr. Austen said the Hydro corridor running through his property has severely cut into his land.

If he can get a portion of Fourth Line, he would stand a chance of picking up another acre to make a 10-acre parcel

-No outstanding April Fool's Day jokes were reported in town on Saturday.



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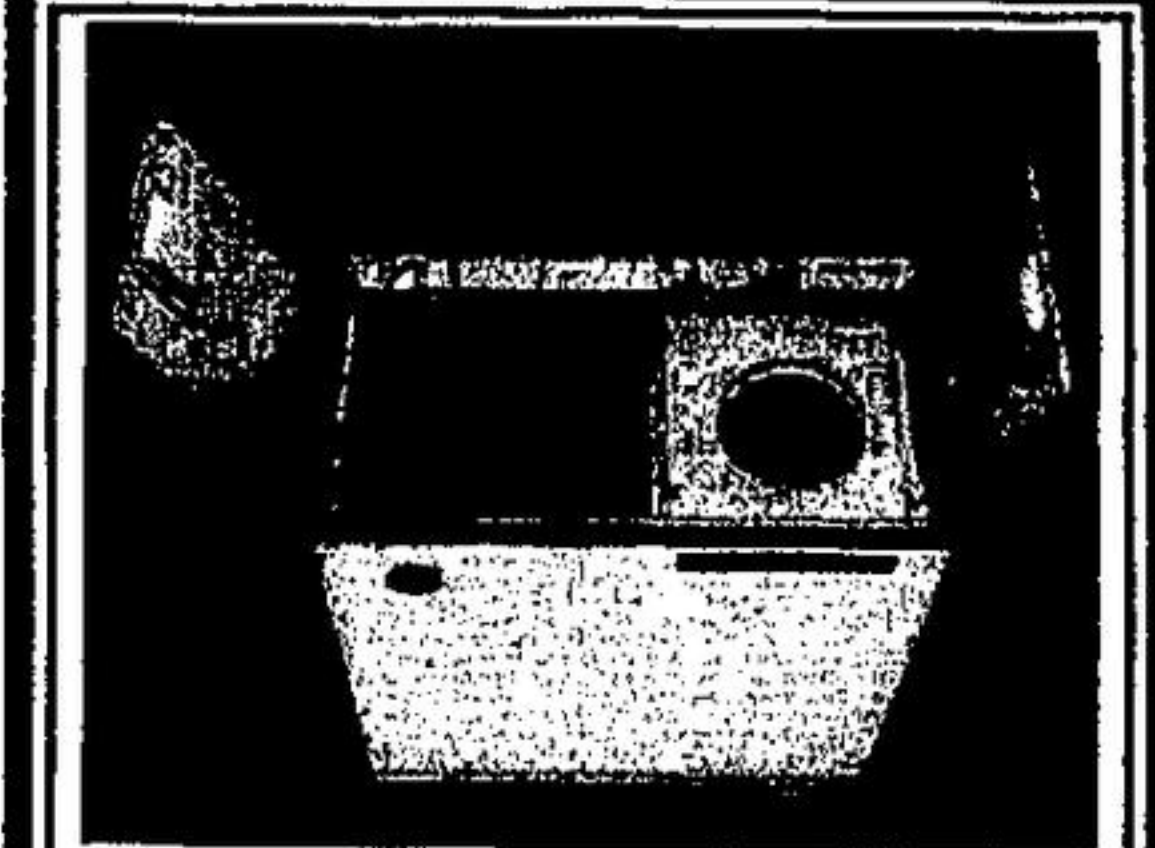


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