

# Recreation, rehabilitation-and profit all three at Crystal Springs trout farm

People are apt to be pretty sceptical of government funded projects and it's refreshing to find two young men, who although presently government assisted, are anxious to make their project self-sufficient as soon as possible.

Crystal Springs Trout Farm, north of Rockwood, is the brainchild of Ted Turner and Barrie Burns and is part trout raising operation, part recreation facility and part rehabilitation centre.

Manned by LEAP Under the general umbrella of Manpower, Barrie and Ted are assisted by LEAP (Local Education and Training) Youngsters not only see, first hand, the many facets of trout

Employment Assistance Program). Crystal Springs Incorporated is funded to employ three administrative staff members which include Barrie, Ted and secretary Jocelyn Luttmer, plus groups of young people 16-26 who need rehabilitation and be employable by the private sector.

With the help of the five employees (soon to be seven), Barrie and Ted plan to make their operation, both hatcheries and recreation farm, self supporting.

Crystal Springs is currently an outdoor classroom for Wellington Board of Education but they are able to do protein conversion efficiency tests between trout and beef

using figures available from the beef operation run by Ted's father on the rest of the farm.

With expansion, one of the fish breeding sheds, where brood stock is kept in controlled ring tanks, will be equipped with science tables and microscopes for students.

Twin Lakes Farm

Ted Turner, his wife Sharon, and their family live on the farm owned by Ted's parents. The senior Turners moved to the 100 acre farm situated on Sixth Line Eramosa, north of Highway 24 seven years ago. Art Turner operates a beef lot and butcher shop under the name of Twin Lakes Farm.

Ted, who was in heavy equipment sales, became interested in trout farming on the two picturesque ponds at the back of the farm. The idea grew as he learned how to grow his fish and Crystal Springs organization was born.

The previously unfarmed area of the property, consisting of the two large ponds, several smaller ponds and a system of linking streams surrounded by bush and several generations of hardwood forest, lends itself to recreation with little renovating. A couple of meadows can be used for picnics and games or campgrounds, the farm organizers feel.

As the idea was spawning, Ted, who has experience running a horse ranch in Burlington approached his friend Barrie who had been trained as a recreationist and was employed in the Hamilton-Burlington area as recreation consultant.

Non-profit and broke Crystal Springs is intended to be non-profit, but in the early days it was also totally broke. Friends pitched in, the ponds were stocked, a Toronto teacher friend requested to bring a class out to see the operation and the partners found themselves "bombed with requests".

"The need became evident. The requests grew so we grew", explains Ted and then adds it quickly began killing them financially. So an application for labour was made to Young Canada Works, a federal program. The word was out that the operation was in need of help and they were contacted by Second Chance Program in Guelph to see if they would take some "disadvantaged youth" who were having trouble relating to the accepted work ethic.

One thing led to another and the partners found themselves employees of Manpower employing unemployables and enjoying it thoroughly. The young people who come to work on the farm are subject to counsellors and are visited by various skilled people who train the workers in related areas and help them get an overall picture of the job—paid for by Manpower. The work includes land maintenance, ground clearing, woodlot management, building and maintaining the different levels of trout farming.

Barrie and Ted feel the rehabilitative job is their most important and delight in the improvement of their charges in the two months since the program began.

"They are part of our goals and objectives," states Ted explaining the rapid improvement in attitude noticed.

"The job teaches the employees (previously on welfare) that there are no handouts", Barrie adds. Better physical health, work in a beautiful setting outdoors, the responsibility of living creatures are side-benefits for the employees who seem to be responding rapidly, say the principals.

Goal self supportive However, the goal of Crystal Springs Farm is to be self supportive. The funding

is a means to an end, say Ted and Barrie. With fishing derbies, outings, service clubs and schools making use of the facilities—for a fee—plus revenue from the hundred thousand fish per year they hope to raise, they will be able to do without government help in three years, they hope.

Already, summer playground programs from Burlington, Oakville, Kitchener and Guelph have booked the facilities for the '78 season.

Tours and outdoor education programs for students are presently being arranged through the Wellington Board with a direct charge to students. The Board is not involved with funding in any way.

Barrie and Ted plan to offer pony rides, hay rides, picnic areas with snack bar selling hamburgers from the meat shop. Activities such as an archery range, volleyball field, and fitness trial are possibilities. A consultant from the Experience '78 program will work with the staff to help organize the activities.

The partners hope to develop a commercial fishery

to complement recreation. Crystal Springs Farm Incorporated now has a board of governors and leases the ponds, bush and fields from Art Turner.

With the advice of the Ministry of Natural Resources—they are a licensed fishery—Barrie and Ted want to expand the present hatchery buildings and improve the spawning facilities to produce enough fish to support the whole project.

Both young men are adamant that the financial funding is not a grant but assistance for a non-profit organization.

"It's not an out-and-out gift but incentive to achieve our goals".

In the event they grow more rapidly than projected their financial revenue will offset funding.

Barrie Burns and Ted Turner are enthusiastic men with the nucleus of major viable farm and recreation operation. Already Crystal Springs is an interesting place to visit, fish, and have a peaceful outing. When future plans are inaugurated it may rival many conservation areas for a place to "get back to nature".



ADJUSTING the weir gate, Ted Turner checks out one of the fish ponds at Crystal Springs Trout Farm a combination recreation and commercial operation north of Rockwood.

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BARRIE BURNS, one of the operators of Crystal Springs Trout Farm, removes silt from a spawning tank.



A TUB full of fish for Ted Turner at Crystal Springs Trout Farm. The brood stock are kept in tanks for part of the year.

## Parents encourage physical education

A group of Georgetown parents have asked Halton Board of Education to ensure elementary school children receive daily physical education training.

Georgetown's University Women's Club set up a committee to study the elementary physical education program and found it lacking in many respects. Mary Lou Brock and Mary McEwen presented a brief to trustees, Thursday, dealing with their findings.

The study involved looking at physical education programs from as far away as France and as close as North York.

They told the board children need a balance of intellectual, social and physical development during their formative years and "this balance cannot properly be achieved without the implementation of a daily, quality physical education program." The University Women's Club suggested 30 to 60 minutes of physical education daily for all elementary pupils.

Pointing to the study in France which began in 1961, the group said it showed the children achieved more academically and were "less susceptible" to stress when they received daily physical education.

Looking at programs closer to home, studies showed daily physical education programs produce pupils who are "healthier, stronger, keener,

happier, have better attitudes and are better disciplined." Absenteeism is also greatly reduced.

The women's group expressed concern that children who have athletic ability receive lots of physical training through sports while others receive little or none.

"Physical activity is not a frill, it is a necessity for health and well-being throughout life," they declared. They felt since schools prepare children for the future they should emphasize physical education.

Examining Georgetown schools they found some children receive as little as two 30 minutes periods of physical activity per week while some other schools receive as much as 40 minutes of physical education daily. The difference in emphasis on physical education from school to school was surprising.

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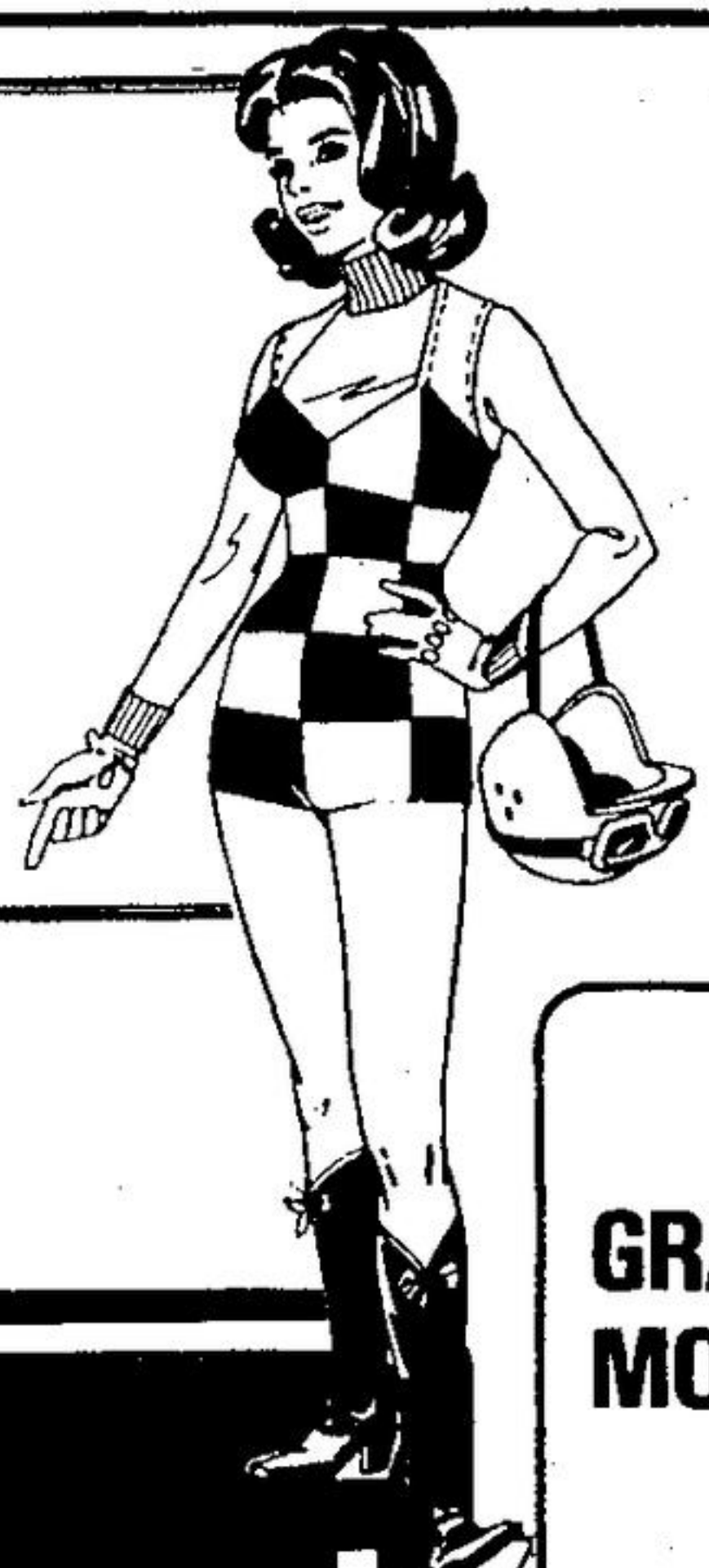
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