



BARBEQUEING IS a common event for Ross Campbell who has been a seasonal camper at the Breezes for five years. He enjoys the park and the friends he has made.

Campers' paradise lies in three Acton parks

The hot weather of the past two months may be playing havoc with farmers and their crops, but three areas near town are enjoying it while it is here.

More and more people are turning towards camping as a means of accommodation while travelling. Others leave their trailer in one park all year round making a "summer cottage" out of the vehicle.

Acton has three parks within two miles of the town. Nor-Halton Park on 25 Sideroad just east of the Nassagawya-Esqueping line, Smallwood Acres and The Breezes, both located side by side on the townline on the west side of Fairy Lake, offer both seasonal sites and transient sites. All are filled to capacity on the weekends. Seasonal sites are filled all year round, even though the parks are only open mid-May until Thanksgiving weekend.

Nor-Halton Park, owned and operated by Mervin and Doris Barber, started out in 1969. It had originally been a farm, but Mr. Barber decided 25 years ago when he bought the property that he wanted it to be a camp ground. He gave up farming in 1969 and cleared some sites. In 1973, he added hydro and water to the sites.

Barber. The park is limited to family camping only, which eliminates the worry of young teenagers coming in drinking and causing trouble.

There is an area which has been used by three groups of Guides. Just recently, the Brownies stayed for one week, and presented Mrs. Barber with an owl mug to show their appreciation.

A swimming pool is offered as a quick way to cool off on a hot summer's day. The park also offers hydro, a pumping station, water, a playground, store, recreation hall, flush toilets and showers.

Mrs. Barber says she has noticed a swing back to tents from the large trailers for the transient campers. She attributes this to the high cost of gas and the towing of the heavy vehicle behind cars.

Hannah Wood of the Breezes Park has a different experience, however. She says tents are on their way out with trailers becoming more and more popular.

She and her husband John have owned the park 16 years. It was called the Breezes when they purchased it, and they decided to keep the name. The area has had the same name for many years.

This park has 65 seasonal campers, some of whom have stayed two or three years. Even though a lot of tents come in on the weekends, Mrs. Wood says, their owners are just young people.

Swimming is offered in Fairy Lake, as well as boating. Campers may enjoy horseshoe pitching. The Breezes also offer hydro, septic tanks, and water.

Purchasing the camp was not planned 16 years ago, Mrs. Wood said. She explained that her husband wanted to move out to the country, and the property was for sale. They thought it over and decided they would give the campground a try.

Smallwood Acres, also on the First Line, offers 130 seasonal sites. Some 40 others are set aside for transient campers.

Owned by Charles Smallwood since 1964, the camp offers a sand beach on Fairy Lake, all utilities and firewood. T-Shirts bearing the name of the park are also available. The only one of the three camps to be advertised, Smallwood Acres, is listed in various tour guide books, and offers mainly family camping.

Canteen operator Linda Mairs explains that most of the seasonal campers prefer this area to farther north because it beats the weekend traffic, and the husbands can commute to work. Many wives and children stay the entire summer. One camper explained she will be here until Labor Day, going home to Mississauga only long enough to move from one apartment to another.

Campers go to the park to be lazy, Mrs. Mairs claimed. They do not want tennis courts or golf courses, but merely to relax on the shores of Fairy Lake knowing they are only a short distance from home.

In all three parks, most of the seasonal campers have developed their sites into a landscapers' paradise. Whether the trailer is 13 feet or 27 feet, most have rooms added, stone fireplaces built, grass and flowers planted, picket fences, etc. In a few cases, there are tent trailers with rooms added on, whether a canvas add-a-room, or an actual wooden room built on.

Campers have a different outlook on recreation from non-campers. The weekend away from the city is a weekend of laziness, but also a weekend when they know everyone else is being lazy, too. They can forget their worries over a camp fire, and day dream the hours away in the hot sun.



SMALL PICKET FENCE helps add a homey atmosphere to seasonal campsites in Nor-Halton Park. Local camps are popular places to leave a trailer all year round and commute to work in Toronto or Mississauga during the summer.



MOST SEASONAL trailers are fixed up better than a lot of homes. All are kept neat, but still maintain the out-of-doors atmosphere. Nor-Halton Park sites are no different.

Free Press

Real Estate MARKET PLACE

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3 bedroom bungalow in Glenora area. Close to shopping. KAY MAXWELL
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ACTON for Sale. 2 1/2 storey brick home, large lot, \$57,500. 877-7240. 21580

3 BEDROOM townhouse in Phase III, Kingham Rd. Acton \$39,900. End unit with 1200 sq. ft. on 2 floors, plus handsomely finished rec. room with bar. Tastefully decorated throughout. Extra 2 pc. washroom on main floor. End of August possession with low down payment to a qualified purchaser. Good 1st. mortgage at 10 per cent. Alteo Construction Ltd. 853-0190 or evenings 856-9807 or 877-8167. 11026

CHOOSE the location—split entrance 3 bedroom bungalows being built on McDonald Blvd. Acton on 50 x 114 ft. lots or in Everton (near Rockwood) on 1/2 acre lots. Priced in low 60's. Attached garage, fire place in livingroom, rough in for a stove in finished family room. Laundry and 3 pc. washroom on lower level, are finished. Brick with aluminum siding and trim. Early purchasers have choice of kitchens, ceramic tiles, flooring and carpeting from builder's samples. Alteo Construction Ltd. 853-0190 or evenings 856-9807 or 877-8167. 11025

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NEW listing: Price well below comparative properties. This beautiful, roomy, 2 1/2 year old four bedroom home can be yours if you act promptly as owners have been transferred. Extremely tastefully decorated. Also features a living room, dining room, 2 baths, double garage with paved drive, exposed garden level, family room has panelling, heater/ator fireplace on stone faced wall and thick quality carpeting. Go through sliding glass doors to an expansive, fully fenced back yard and pick vegetables from a pre-cultivated garden. Asking \$60,000. Please call Carol Ann Lerikos (519) 824-1123 or (519) 821-2460 representing Canada Trust Realtor, Guelph. 11047

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RETIRING? Country setting, large treed lot, patio, paved streets, garden area. Special 14' x 60' mobile. Complete price \$10,300.00. All units priced right. Call Chatham Mobile Homes (519) 352-7635 or (519) 692-4453. 21662



MARK AND GLEN MOFFATT, seasonal campers at Smallwood Acres, build a fire to prepare lunch. They want to make sure the heat is just right before cooking.



PHILIP DODSON is hidden behind his prize winning entry in the bike decorating contest. The contest was part of the Back to Acton Days festivities. Philip took first place in the competition.

Town Hall Tales

Town hall as library

by George Elliott

Not too long after the Town Hall opened its doors a decision was made that a town such as Acton should have a library for the education and entertainment of its citizens. There was only one central, proper place to locate it and that was in the back, right hand room at the Town Hall, across from the lock-up (cells). This wasn't a large room but then in 1888 when Acton library began it only had forty books so the space was ample enough.

The first librarian at sixteen years of age was Ettie Laird who later became Mrs. Murray Macdonald and he was a long time secretary-treasurer of the School Board. The library grew rapidly; there were shelves around the walls and an old wooden ladder was used to reach books on the very top ones.

A typical Town Hall pot-bellied stove kept the chill off in the winter and patrons were allowed to withdraw books on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings. There was a special rack for children's books and these young readers in later years became so numerous that they were restricted to Monday night borrowing only.

The librarian sat at a table in the center of the room and signed out the books. This table was really considered a desk because it fortunately had a drawer in which could be secreted money paid in for library cards and overdue book fines.

The next librarian was Ethel Coleman, followed in turn by Lettie Scott, a local girl who lived just a block away from the Town Hall on Bowler.

In 1913 Mrs. Isobel Watson, then a girl of 14, began her long career as a librarian in Acton. She remembers there were a good many books on the shelves in the library by then and the library borrowing cards were five cents. For that you could get about thirty books, the loan period being two weeks. It doesn't seem like much now but wages at the tannery then were \$1.25 per day which is what many today get for 1/2 hour's work.

For those with bad memories about when a book should be returned the penalty was 5c per day. That must have been a real

deterrent. The most popular books then, as now, were fiction but westerns were far out in front on the list in popularity.

Mrs. Watson remembers well lighting the old stove. Fortunately she didn't have to do this too often because Bob McPherson, the Chief of Police and general handyman about town, often came in before she arrived and started the fire so it would be comfortable.

The cells across the hall were sometimes occupied by overnight guests although the outer door to the cell room was locked in this case. Sometimes library patrons would be entertained by the singing of a slightly drunk soul locked in a cell. Once during the depression Mrs. Watson recalls being called to the telephone, which was in the room beyond the cells, and on walking in discovered twelve or fifteen transients washing up after a day on the road. She heard a hasty retreat and never answered the phone there again. The Town Hall often supplied a night's lodging for the out-of-work men who passed through town.

In 1934 the Library left the Town Hall for its new larger quarters in the YMCA and another chapter in Town Hall history closed forever.

One Actonian who has some vivid memories of the Town Hall library is Esther Taylor. She joined at the tender age of nine and thus began a lifetime of reading books. She was so proud of her first card and well remembers her first book was entitled "Bully Bullfrog". Children's books at any rate haven't changed much.

At a slightly older age Esther recalls somehow managing to take out the book "Ten Nights in a Bar Room". This purple temperance tract was considered much too ripe for a young girl so it was read furtively and sneaked back the same way. She says it was a real tear-jerker of a book but its temperance message didn't take.

There were a couple of lady authors in those days who wrote romantic fiction. Their books were considered much too racy for children's eyes. Ethel M. Dell was one who wrote about magnetic, charming heroes who got the heroine as far as the bedroom door before propriety drew



PEANUTS and Lillian Graham earned second place for smallest dog at the Back to Acton Days pet show.

Youth skims milk store

A youth used five milk jugs he swiped from a parked milk truck at the rear of the Recker's Milk Store to collect the deposit.

Only when the truck driver returned to the vehicle did he discover the jugs he redeemed had already been his.