



Ray Mueller, R. R. 1 Limehouse is readying for a trek to Winnipeg to witness the total eclipse of the sun, Monday morning. The next total eclipse in North America will be 2017. Ray is an astronomy enthusiast and spends almost every clear night gazing at the stars.

Area youth to watch eclipse

by Helen Murray
A 15-year-old R.R. 1, Limehouse youth is heading out to Winnipeg Sunday to witness the total eclipse of the sun, the last one for this continent in this century.

Ray Mueller, a grade 10 student at Acton high school is heading west with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for the less than three minute spectacular. The group arrives in Winnipeg where they will visit a planetarium, and then head out for Lunder, about 65 miles north of the city where they will watch the site.

Brandon Manitoba, Ray explains, is the best spot in Canada to watch it, but that particular trip cost more money, just to watch the eclipse for one second longer. For a high school student, it wasn't feasible.

The next time there will be a total eclipse anywhere in North America will be August 21, 2017. Any one particular location on Earth experiences a total eclipse only about once every 360 years, with this area seeing one 15 years ago. Ray doesn't remember that eclipse, and did want to wait until 2017 to see the next one.

According to a poster put out by the Royal Ontario Museum, "an eclipse of the Sun occurs when the Moon in its orbit about the Earth passes between the Earth and the Sun. Because all three bodies are approximately in line, the shadow of the Moon falls on the earth. Although the Moon is smaller than the Sun it is much closer to the Earth, and as a result, it appears from Earth to be the same size as the Sun. From inside the Moon's shadow, the Moon seems to cover the Sun and a total eclipse is seen."

"This eclipse" the poster continued "is particularly noteworthy as it is the last total eclipse visible from North America this century. Although the area of the total eclipse does not include highly populated regions of Ontario, the partial eclipse will be visible over the entire province as well as virtually all of North America. The farther a location is away from the Path of Totality, the smaller the area of the sun that will be covered."

Ray first became interested in astronomy when he was nine or ten and he visited the planetarium in Toronto. His interest grew stronger over the next three years, but waned after a while. When he entered high school, he "bugged" the teachers into letting him use the school's telescope. After a while, he got one of his own, which he uses every cloudless night.

His interest in the stars motivated him to form an astronomy club, which has a membership of four, including two adults. His fascination, Ray admitted, has affected his school work in such a way that he stays up all night to watch the stars, and finds himself falling asleep in classes. When he finishes school he would like to become a

NEC moves forward but on reduced front

by George Evashuk
The 17 member Niagara Escarpment Commission has moved a step closer to a master plan for the escarpment but one considerably reduced in size.

Originally charged with producing a master plan for the 450 miles of escarpment from Tobermory to Niagara Falls, an area of 1.3 million acres, the commission decided at a recent meeting in Toronto to reduce that area by 62 per cent.

"It's roughly the old development control area," said Roy Booth, Halton Hills councillor and member of the NEC who prepared and presented the motion to the commission.

The original boundary was set down by the government "before they knew what and where was to be planned," Booth said.

He added he is satisfied that the proposed boundary, or some small modification of it, will meet the goals and objectives of Bill 129, which set up the NEC in 1974.

"The proposed boundary is now flexible and leaves (NEC) staff the opportunity to work within the boundary", Booth said.

Booth noted that the commission has received briefs from interested groups, municipalities, individuals, advisory committees and the NEC staff.

Groups such as CONE (Coalition of the Niagara Escarpment) and the advisory committees say that the boundaries are too narrow while on the other hand municipalities, which have had removed direct development control on parts of the escarpment within their own boundaries, say it's too wide, Booth said.

"I think we got a good saw up," Booth said. "It's not the whole (original plan) nor a very narrow strip."

Booth said he was "a little upset" at criticism of NEC by CONE that the NEC backed off and weren't fighting the people who wanted the boundary reduced, especially in Grey and Bruce counties.

"But at the meetings in the north, we didn't hear anything from CONE to back us up," Booth said. "Surely they could have supported us in some way."

Under the provisions of the act the proposed

plan will again be presented to the public with a provision allowing a hearing to change the proposed boundaries. But the hearing officer will be allowed to hear only applications to take land out of the plan, not to put land back into the plan, a point that commissioner Lee Symmes of rural Terra Cotta disagrees with.

"It's like a one way check valve," Symmes said in an interview Monday. "It means land can be taken out but no more be brought in."

"If we've made a mistake and something should be considered... then that cannot be considered ever again."

Symmes added later that it is only with a provincial amendment that a piece of land could be brought into the master plan.

He would have preferred to see all the land left in for consideration of development control.

"As we get input and there doesn't seem to be sufficient reason for keeping it (any parcel of land) then it can be considered," he said. "But if we decide we don't need an area, then we do not plan for it."

Symmes said that areas that have been

recommended by advisory committees should be left in "at this time for consideration."

"At this stage the only reason things should be dropped out are for planning and technical reasons. The political process should come in when the plan is being developed."

He said the alleged flexibility of the proposed plan results from the fact that no municipal politicians will happily give up planning control over an area of his jurisdiction.

"If we do the planning for an area it means we plan it on the basis of a provincial resource," he said. The local considerations do not receive the same priority nor have full control over planning in that area. "Essentially the municipal politicians want the planning area reduced to the minimum."

Symmes believes the real benefits of the plan are for the future generations, our children and grandchildren, and planning for the escarpment should be viewed in that light. "But instead, the majority looks at it the other way."

Library bridge hampers elderly

The picturesque, arched bridge over the creek in front of Acton Library could be discouraging some older residents from patronizing the library, especially in the winter.

Head librarian, Betsy Cornwell pointed out to the library board Wednesday that the bridge is extremely slippery in winter, and several people, including herself, have fallen while attempting to cross over it.

She said ice forms and then snow accumulates. With no proper handrails, walking is dangerous.

She says everyone has trouble on it, and she knows some elderly people are afraid of the structure and will not go to the library.

Acton representative Norm Elliott suggested having a professional look at the bridge and get his opinion as to what can be done. He thought maybe a handrail to hold on, should be installed. Ken

Riley suggested putting it in the capital budget this year to reconstruct it.

Another Acton rep., Jerry Disano, said the bridge is pretty and enhances the look of the library. He would hate to see it made flat. Mr. Elliott agreed.

Chairman Dick Howitt suggested salt, but Mr. Disano pointed out that unless the wood is specially treated, the salt would eat it away. Mrs. Cornwell said she had been told to throw sand



Halton Hills head librarian Betsy Cornwell showed the library board around Georgetown facilities last Wednesday. Board members Jerry Disano (partially hidden), Norm Elliott and Dick Howitt (back to camera) witnessed overcrowding, leaking ceilings and old furniture.

Weeds worry board member

Something should be done now with the weeds in the creek in front of the Acton Library, according to Halton Hills library board member Norm Elliott.

Mr. Elliott, Acton, said it was a pet peeve of his that the creek gets overgrown with weeds, and then people throw garbage in it. Town workers have to come and clean up the mess. He said he felt something should be done now with the Credit Valley Con-

servation Authority rather than wait until summer, when it is too late to do something about it.

He suggested dredging and reinforcing the banks.

Chairman Dick Howitt said last year the town crews wanted to use a herbicide but found they could not because it would get into the water, which flows into Fairy Lake, used by Beardmore. They have, how-

Gzowski's spring tonic Rockwood book launch

Peter Gzowski's latest book, "Spring Tonic" is to be launched nationally with a special evening in Rockwood town hall this Friday night, to which everyone is invited.

Nationally known writer and broadcaster, Gzowski edited the publication which contains a collection of writings about spring which he picked from many Canadian writers such as W.O. Mitchell and Margaret Atwood. Also among contributors are Free Press columnist and author Jennifer Barr and Elmira publisher Carol Verden.



Jennifer Barr is well known locally for her column Sideroad 5 and features she has done for The Acton Free Press.

She has also published a book "And the Lord rode a Donkey".

Gzowski has the talents of three well known Rockwood residents to help him launch his book which he describes as a "panacea for winter doldrums—a large bottle of Gzowski's elixir."

There's no admission charge for the evening and no obligation to buy the 208 page book, well illustrated with color.

Entertaining will be the Green Fiddle Morris Dancers from local points and as far away as Toronto and the Sunshine Boys from Rockwood.

Library on list for emergencies

Acton library could be used for temporary shelter in case of an emergency but the facility was volunteered with some hesitation.

Halton Hills Library Board received a letter from the Acton Red Cross explaining they were setting up an emergency service. The Red Cross requested permission to use the library if needed, including their kitchen facilities. The letter explained it was used it would only be for a few hours, with a chance of overnight accommodation.

The board hesitated to give permission immediately, as they did not feel the library was a very logical place to send

people. Ruth Wilson pointed out cooking facilities were limited. She said the Legion would be a more sensible place for people to go. Other board members suggested schools.

Norm Elliott pointed out that the Red Cross is trying to establish an inventory of places avail-

Night lectures are favored

The University of Waterloo is pleased with the response of a survey they conducted in Halton Hills concerning night classes offered in both Acton and Georgetown.

A letter, sent to the Halton Hills Library Board pointed out they had over 240 responses to the survey in favor of evening lectures. The most popular night for the classes was Tuesday and Wednesday, the letter said, with Monday and Thursday close behind.

"Some people," according to head librarian Betsy Cornwell, "expressed interest in Saturday evenings." She joked "Are things that bad in Halton Hills?"

Mrs. Cornwell said the

Acton Library was equipped for the lectures whenever they could be scheduled, but the Georgetown Library was a problem every night but Monday, which was not a preferred day.

LDC grants bid on Third Line

Halton Region Land Division Committee (LDC) recently granted a severance to an Acton man the second time around.

The committee agreed to sever a lot on the Third Line, north of Acton high school. The lot, with a frontage of 125 feet, belongs to Ed McMullen, 97 Bower Ave.

The remaining lot size is substandard, a point made by the committee.

The first application, in November, would have both lots non-conforming and variances would have been needed, according to LDC member Tom Marshall. The re-drawing of the plan makes one lot conform to standards.

The second lot must pass examination by Committee of Adjustment.

Snow removal irks librarian

A feud is developing between the town and the Halton Hills library board.

Head librarian Betsy Cornwell told the board Wednesday evening that the library staff in both Acton and Georgetown B.I.A. . . .

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He acknowledged the only message to be taken from the meeting is that Acton does have a parking problem.

Fellow merchants Flo Charlebois and Alma Swetman agreed with Mrs. Stachyra on parking, but they also acknowledged one of the main points made by shoppers during the meeting. There is not enough variety for consumers in town.

All three merchants expressed the opinion that most of the people at the meeting came with their minds made up.

Mr. Stachyra acknowledged the merchants thought they would have more time than they received at the meeting, but he also said he realized public meetings can not be tied up with presentations.

The film went on too long, according to Mrs. Swetman. But even if the BIA managed to make its presentation she said she thought it would not have been well received by the audience.

Mr. Stachyra, however, said he had no complaints about the management of the meeting by planning board vice-chairman Mike Armstrong.

Just where the BIA goes from the meeting is unknown. Mr. Stachyra declined comment on the group's plans.

snow from the parking lot on the street, and the staff is responsible for removing the snow from the sidewalk and bridge.

In Georgetown, she said, staff clears the snow away from the sidewalk leading into the library, but hire a young boy to clear the snow on the municipal sidewalk in front of the building. Mrs. Cornwell told the board that as soon as the boy is finished, "the snowplow comes past on the street and pushes the snow back onto the sidewalk."

Doug Magwood said he gets very upset everytime he looks out the win-

Students raise CanSave funds

Valentine's Day is a time for love. Students at Robert Little school took this opportunity to spread the love beyond their friends, to children they have never, and probably never will meet.

Keeping in the theme of the United Nations, Year of the Child, each class decorated the room with a Save the Children Valentine tree. In addition to, or instead of exchanging Valentines, the children were asked to help CanSave children in 30 countries around the world.

The money, which was earned by the children, for chores at home was brought to school to be donated to the fund. In exchange for their donation the children made and hung a Valentine heart, with their name on it, on the classroom tree.

Each heart on the tree signified the child has helped a CanSave Child and has shared their Valentine love.

Acting principal, Larry Ciglen, said the school raised \$204.90 for the CanSave fund.

Rec. dept. applies for youth grant

Three people could be employed by Project Interthink this summer if the Halton Hills Recreation Department receives a Young Canada Works grant.

Council, Monday evening, gave the recreation department permission to apply for the \$7,360 federal grant which would finance an in-depth look at the summer programs, in order to help ensure that resources (Manpower and finances) are being wisely allocated.

In a report from Glen Gray, recreation director, to the town, it was pointed out that last April his department invited the public to a day entitled "You and Your Community." The prime objective of the day, according to the report, was to discuss the role of the department and that of community groups within the town.

The recreation department, it was concluded at the end of the day, should be concentrating their efforts and resources in the areas of co-ordination except in those program areas where other providing agencies are not in a position to offer programs for the community. Mr. Gray noted in the report, other agencies providing programs are the libraries, the board of education and the YM, YWCAs.

The objective of Project Interthink would include: review and analysis of past and present summer programming in Halton Hills; evaluation of needs and desires of the residents in relation to summer programs; analysis of results and recommendations for future summer programming in Halton Hills.

One project manager and two research technicians would be required for 17 weeks, commencing May 7 to August 31.

The report stated that "the agencies operating within the town will be in a better position to offer services to the residents in terms of programs that are both wanted and needed."

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\$6,222 repairs

Welcom Ltd. were awarded the contract by Halton Hills council, Monday night to carry out renovations at Acton arena.

Welcom Ltd. the lowest bidder set a price of \$6,222. The second bid was \$8,800 and the third \$11,336.

The firm of Morrison, Hershfield, Burgess and Higgins, who prepared the specifications will supervise the work.



Hearts of Robert Little students went out to others who are less fortunate than themselves. On Valentine's Day the children brought in money to be donated to CanSave and bought a heart for a heart tree. Linda Wayne, Melinda Stuckless and Kevin Cripps admire the tree in their classroom.