

Halton — where the buffalo roam

Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area near Milton was the first Ontario home for buffalo to roam. Now, 12 years later, offspring from Ontario's first, natural herd can be seen at various parks, zoos and farms.

North America's largest hoofed animal, the buffalo roamed the wilderness for thousands of years on a range that extended from Northern Mexico to Great Slave Lake, from the Rockies to the Appalachians. Buffalo foraged the American section of the Niagara Escarpment until settlers drove them westward in the early 1800s.

At their peak, buffalo numbered over 60 million. But, in the last half of the nineteenth century, the population dropped from countless millions to less than 600 head.

By the turn of the century, the conservation minded were beginning to lament the buffalo's extermination. Canada's first national herd was started at Banff National Park in 1897 when the Canadian Government purchased a herd from Montana. Subsequent herds ranging in size from a few to almost a hundred were acquired.

Today, for the most part, there are no wild buffalo; the survivors are carefully protected in parks and private herds. In Canada, there are some 20,000 to 22,000 buffalo, most of them hybridized-crossed between the Woodland and the Plains species.

In October, 1965, to help visually portray the buffalo's story of near extinction and wildlife preservation, the Halton Region Conservation Authority imported five buffalo (a bull and four cows) from Wood Buffalo National Park.

The first herd was established on a 70 acre pasture at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area where the herd could graze in their centuries-old style. Two years later, the herd almost doubled in size when all four cows gave birth. The timeless ritual continued with calves born every succeeding spring.

The experiment proved so successful that in 1974 the herd was split and

several buffalo were shipped to Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. Now, 18 of these one ton animals roam Rattlesnake Point and half that number reside at Mountsberg.

Several buffalo, mostly the offspring of the original bull, 'Bashful Bobby' (his name turned out to be a misnomer) have been sold or donated by the Authority. Some of the new homes include Wasaga Beach Zoo, Bowmanville Zoo and Confederation Park in Hamilton.

A sad story surrounds the shipment of a buffalo to the New Brunswick Zoo in St. John's. A baby buffalo named Billy was earmarked for shipment to New Brunswick. After a week of tempting the youngster with corn and hay into a cage-trap, Billy was shot with a tranquillizing gun. Billy never woke up after the dart hit him. One of his half-brothers took the ride to the zoo.

Bob Edmondson, the Authority's Wildlife Biologist, explained that buffalo are one of the most difficult animals to tranquillize because their size and weight can be misleading when observed at a distance in the field, and consequently

proper dosage is difficult to prescribe.

Also, if the buffalo falls on its side after being tranquillized, the animal's great weight pushing against the lungs can literally squeeze the life out of it.

In the Fall of 1975 another buffalo was subdued before shipment to a private individual. When the animal felt the effects of the tranquillizer dart it started choking on grain it had eaten beforehand. To the rescue came Authority members Martin Wernaart and Bob Edmondson, and Dr. Norman Fish, Professor of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Guelph who was supervising the tranquillizing operation. After 15 minutes of artificial respiration by heart massage the animal breathed again.

Although, buffalo as a rule are easy-going creatures, they are unpredictable. A case in point is when an Authority staff member misjudged the mood of a buffalo during a feeding period and consequently found himself up a tree looking down at the angry beast.

Signs were erected around the Mountsberg and Rattlesnake compounds warning visitors



St. Joseph's Separate School put on a good show for parents and siblings in Robert Little auditorium. The crowd enjoyed everything from gift wrapped children, (top), to live trees (middle left), Mork and Mindy, (middle right), and stars and wise men. All children in the school took part in the concert.

Co-operative learning, finances are studied

Co-operative education and collective bargaining contracts were two of the issues examined by Halton's representatives during the board of education's first year as a member of the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario.

Co-operative education was discussed by the association's curriculum committee of which Acton-Esqueving Trustee Betty Fisher is the Halton board's representative.

Co-operative education was defined as "the resource of the school and community for the development of the students' vocational and avocational interests." Students can obtain first hand technical experience.

For example, according to Fisher, technical education is ill-equipped to offer the plastic mould trade because of the lack of dollars for equipment. Hamilton has two offerings of co-operative education which caught the trustee's eye. There is a credit summer school course for girls in office practice. There is also a home building course in which students help build a house.

ALSBO is studying, with its legislation and finance committee, individual teacher contracts and collective agreements. Halton is asking that committee to also study the effect of early retirement on superannuation funds.

The association is also asking the province to hold up on changes to the Education Act with respect to Special Education until the implications of the changes for other ministries and funding is examined.

Deputy Oliver retires

After 31 years as a policeman, Deputy Chief Fred W. Oliver is hanging up his badge.

Deputy Oliver's resignation was approved by Halton Regional Police Commissioners during their Thursday meeting at Oakville.

Oliver starts his retirement January 2. He holds the position of deputy chief in charge of support services. He has also been the deputy in charge of administration and in charge of operations. He became a deputy after the formation of the Halton force.

Starting in 1962 when the Trafalgar Township and Oakville forces joined, he became chief of the new Oakville force. He started his police career as a constable with the township force in 1948.

He was past president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. He also sat on committees for the Canadian and the international association of police chiefs.

Mazda
The more you look
The more you like!

VIEW THE 1980's TODAY AT...

an achilles motors
SALES and SERVICE
347-351 Queen Street, Acton 853-0200

TV interference from Hydro line?

TV viewers who have Ontario Hydro's east-west 500kV line separating them from their favorite stations may experience some reception problems, according to a citizen's group.

The Interested Citizens' group (ICG) claimed this week that Ontario Hydro boosted the power on the Nanticoke-Pickering line to 500 kV from what it was running at 230 kV.

"They are experimenting," according to ICG spokesman John Minns of Glen Williams. The hike in power was on Dec. 4.

The Nanticoke-Pickering line runs east-west along Milton's north border. The ICG opposed construction of the line during an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. So did Halton Hills and Halton Region.

There is only one circuit on the east-west line so far. That line features bundled conductors of four one-inch wires in three phases.

"People can now expect to have television interference in areas near to the line on channels two, three and four, where the line stands between the receiver and transmitter," said Minns.

He said people with complaints should write to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission.

A NEW YEAR PRAYER
As we usher in the New Year we pray yours will be bright with joy and filled with good fortune!

Family Cleaners
DOWNTOWN ACTON

Management and Staff wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year

MARCH BREAK SPACE!

- Nassau from Buffalo Sat. March 15
- Puerto Rico from Toronto Sat. March 15 Sun. March 16
- Acapulco from Toronto Sat. March 15 Sun. March 16
- Orlando from Toronto Thurs. March 13 Fri. March 14 Sat. March 15 Sun. March 16
- St. Pete's from Toronto Sat. March 15
- West Palm Beach from Toronto Thurs. March 13 Mon. March 17
- Tampa Sun. March 16

TYLER TRAVEL SERVICE
ACTON, ONTARIO
853-1553



Acton High School students, who didn't slip away early last Friday were entertained by the grade 13's during the annual Christmas concert.

The one stumbling of these hybrids are block is that the offspring usually sterile.

Frontier Florist & Garden Centre
R.R. 2, Guelph, Ont.
Highway No. 7 West of Rockwood
(519) 822-2361
Floral Designs — Weddings — Funerals

Happy New Year
May your New Year be framed with love, peace and prosperity.

Order Your New Year's Eve CORSAGES & ARRANGEMENTS Early!!
FREE DELIVERY TO HOSPITALS, NURSING AND FUNERAL HOMES IN THE ACTON, ROCKWOOD & GUELPH AREA

CHOCOLATES!! CHOCOLATES!! CHOCOLATES!!

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Moirs Pot of Gold CHOCOLATES 454 g. | \$3.29 |
| Rowntree BLACK MAGIC 454 g. | \$3.49 |
| Rowntree AFTER EIGHT MINTS 200 g. | \$1.39 |
| Dairy Box MILK CHOCOLATES 454 g. | \$3.99 |
| Smiles 'n Chuckles TURTLES 14 oz. | \$3.49 |

glenlea drug mart
294 QUEEN ST. EAST, ACTON 853-2220

Holiday lights
brighten the landscape shining a message of brotherhood and love to all the world. They express too our thanks for your kindness and trust.

from Brian and Sheila Jim and Barb Doug and Doris Brett Goodlet and Doug Cousens

GOODLETS