

Social Services

Few special programs for children in town

A group interested in coordinating children's social services in the northern part of Halton will hold a meeting in Pineview School, Monday, February 28.

The committee, known as the Children's Services Steering Group, want to hear the views of the public on which services are needed and how to plug existing gaps provided by various agencies, and hopefully to eliminate duplication.

With no more money available because of government restraint programs, the group feel the pooling of resources will not only keep costs down, but will provide a wider variety of services for children in North Halton.

"We don't want to presume to know what is wanted, but want to hear from the people in the community," said Claire Fainer, a member of the steering group.

A study done by the group and Halton Planning department claims the Town has the lowest number of special needs programs for children in all of Halton. While a much wider range of services is available in Burlington and Oakville, the lack of public transportation makes them difficult to reach for many of the potential clients.

Programs offering help in overcoming mental or emotional problems, social adjustment, perceptual speech and motor abilities and overcoming some physical problems, for children who are not mentally retarded are not readily available in Town, but with combined efforts of all existing agencies, the steering group hope such situations can be overcome.

"We're trying to do better with what we already have," commented Fainer.

Professor describes

Restoration of longhouse

The retreat of the glaciers after the Ice Age created caverns which collapsed forming Crawford Lake, Professor John McAndrew of the Royal Ontario Museum told Halton Field Naturalists, this week.

He explained the four metres of undisturbed sediment at the bottom of the 24 metre deep lake enabled archeologists to reconstruct the "forest" history of the area. McAndrew invented the "frigid finger" a device used to collect sediment samples, consisting of an aluminum tube filled with dry ice.

When the sheath of frozen sediment is pulled out of the lake bottom, it shows the layers which can date the era. The fossils, seeds leaves picked up tell the scientists not only the year but something about the habits of the people of the time, explained the professor.

He said the presence of a quantity of corn

pollen in the layers dated about 1350 indicate Indian settlements were in the area. He contended corn progressed north from Southern Mexico entering Ontario about 500 AD and forming about 75 per cent of the Indian diet by the 1400's.

The professor said conversations with local farmers disclosed many Indian artifacts had been found in nearby fields.

In 1973 an archeological dig was undertaken revealing the outline of an Indian longhouse. Decorations on the rim of pottery fragments indicated a style between 1300 and 1400 AD.

Other digs since then, have uncovered six longhouses, which housed about 500 people, ancestors of the Hurons.

The excavations are continuing at Crawford Lake, and two longhouses will be reconstructed and furnished as they were at the time, concluded Professor McAndrew.



Miss Canada's a hit!

Miss Canada, Jodie Rutledge, took part in the winter carnival at Terra Cotta Conservation Area Sunday afternoon. Although she was dressed more for glamor than baseball on snowshoes, she banged out a hit in this impromptu turn at bat.

220 enjoy Beaver carnival at Mountsberg

by J-an Layman

The weather and snow conditions were perfect for the annual North Halton District Beaver Winter Carnival held at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre and Conservation Area, last Saturday February 12.

Close to 220 Beavers, Leaders and parents attended this event from Acton, Georgetown and Limehouse.

Sue Walton, Beaver Co-ordinator from Acton with the help of Leaders and parents made this a happy day for all Beavers. Not one Beaver got lost.

The Beavers rotated around to the various events, with each one being enjoyed. The hill was popular for tobogganing. The horse-drawn sleigh ride captured the interest of everyone, too.

Other events equally enjoyed were skating on the pond, a visit to the barn, films shown in the Interpretive Centre, and the Wildlife Life Walkway.

Anyone wishing to arrange for the winter program to cross country ski or the Maple Syrup time may phone 878-4131 for additional information.

Two linesmen are hired

A Georgetown and an Acton man were hired as beginner linespersons by Halton Hills Hydro Commission.

Brad Miller, of Georgetown and Len Medland, of rural Acton began their duties Monday after approval of their employment was given Friday morning at the commission's monthly meeting.

According to Hydro manager Gerry Trudell, Miller has no experience, and Medland worked for Ontario Hydro. Both men will attend school in Toronto for two to three weeks of the year for the next five years as part of training process, Trudell said.

The two men were chosen from 170 applications, the manager noted, and 14 were interviewed.

It will cost about \$150,000 to train these men, Trudell noted.

stuartswed. & thurs. 10am. - 10pm.

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