

# A Tip of the Toque to Red Man for Maple Syrup

by AGNES MCKENNA

The Indian doesn't get credit for much but he rates a tip of the toque in spring when the sap starts rising. Most of us don't feel a need in our lives for feather headdresses and beadwork but we would miss our pancakes and maple syrup if they vanished from the breakfast table. All of them are part of the Indian heritage. Like many legacies of culture and custom the origins of maple syrup are obscure. The legend varies with the teller. This spring the Halton Region Conservation Authority is presenting a maple syrup demonstration program at the Rattlesnake Point Conservation

Area, and this is their version of the tale:

**TOMAHAWK PRACTICE**  
Once upon a time a clutch of braves were having tomahawk practice and were using a maple tree as a target. The gashes made by the weapons caused the sap to flow. The braves tired of their sport and departed. Along came a squaw on her way to the stream to get water. She was tired and sat down under the wounded maple tree. Sap from the gashed tree had collected in a piece of birch bark. The squaw thought it was herself and scooped it up to save her trip to the stream. When the squaw bolted her brave's venison in the sap her

man commented on the sweet taste of the meat and maple syrup was discovered. That's the story, but on closer analysis it is difficult to imagine how the Indians made much syrup.

**HOT STONES**  
At Rattlesnake Point the methods of making maple syrup from pioneer to modern times are demonstrated. First, there is a setup of the Indian method. It is maintained that the Indian used a hollowed log as a boiling vat. However, the log can't be heated by fire underneath because the fire would burn the log. Conservation guides like Mauno Marttala explain that the Indian reduced the sap by dropping hot stones into the

hollow log. However, evaporating the water-like sap is an onerous job even with advanced methods.

How long did it take to reduce 20 gallons of sap to one gallon of syrup with hot stones? Marttala doesn't even attempt to guess, much less demonstrate. There is no working model of the hollow log. Just the hollow log for visitors to wonder at and speculate. **CAULDRON** The next advance in the process was the iron pot method. A huge iron pot, like a witch's cauldron, was suspended on a tripod over a good fire. The fire had to be stoked for 12 hours to reduce a pot of sap to syrup, says Marttala. This model is working at the Rattlesnake Point exhibit. After the iron pot the advantages of flat pan evaporation were discovered, continued Marttala in his speech to visitors. He explains that the greater evaporation surface and the smaller quantity of sap made the process go faster, shortening the job to six or eight hours. Then modern invention arrived with gas-fired, steel evaporators fitted with controls that regulate the sap level, keep track of the temperature and control the flow.

**OUT OF PLACE**

The shiny, steel evaporator at Rattlesnake Point looks oddly out of place in the 1890-style sugar shanty which has been built to house it. Tapping methods have also changed through the years. The Indian used a hollow reed for a spile and caught the sap in buckets made of folded birch bark. Two such buckets were found in the conservation area and are on display. The pioneers improved on the method with better wooden spiles and wooden buckets. Then came steel spiles and metal and plastic pails. Also mass production. It was discovered that the sap could be collected faster by linking the trees together with plastic hose and that the sap could be forced to flow faster by installing pumps on the hose line. **OVER-TAPPING** And, of course, man overdid it. Now there are warnings that trees are damaged or killed by over-tapping, the same way a person dies if he loses too much blood. The demonstration at Rattlesnake Point has been clearly marked for visitors. A short walk into the area brings him to the first trees, hung with buckets and signs explaining what is going on. The trail leads to the piece of ground which has been bulldozed

flat to accommodate the sugar shanty and models of evaporation equipment.

**NOT IDEAL**  
Only about a dozen trees in the area are tapped for demonstration purposes. Additional sap from other parts of the conservation area is hauled in for the evaporation exhibits. The flow has been a little slow so far this year because of a lack of ideal weather conditions. For a good sap flow frosty nights are needed with daytime temperatures in the 40s. The demonstration area is open to the public this week. School groups are taken through with guides by reservation only and the school tours are already booked up. **NOT A FESTIVAL** Any school group which decides not to keep its appointment because of change of plans or bad weather misses out. It is expected that 2,000 school children will go through the demonstration area before it closes on April 8. The project at Rattlesnake Point is a clear and efficient demonstration of the methods of making maple syrup; it is not a festival. There are tasty but tiny samples of free syrup available on a first come, first served basis but there is nothing else to eat and nothing to buy. Picnic tables are available if visitors wish to bring a lunch in suitable weather. **RISK** However, maple syrup time means brisk business in many areas. Maple syrup festivals have become popular in a dozen centres throughout Ontario and residents go all out providing visitors with pancakes, sausages, other home-baked goodies and handicrafts. Some highly successful festivals like Elmira and Elmville stop the traffic for miles on all access roads. Other centres have failed to properly assess the facilities needed for a large influx of visitors and have run short of food, parking and toilet facilities. It might be something to bear in mind if you decide to participate in this distinctive spring rite. It might be more of a pioneer-type experience than expected.

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INTERRUPTED REVELRY

With spring arriving in brief instalments this year the skippers, bike riders and marble players have had to

be alert to get in their traditional revelry. Celebrating the arrival of spring, between snowfalls,

are Klana King (skipping) and Kim Herrington and Marina Santos on each end of the rope.



**MARILYN CRESCENT**—3 bedroom brick bungalow in immaculate condition. Ideal family home with fully-fenced, child-proof rear yard. Could be purchased with as low as \$3,000.00 down. All offers considered. Act fast.

**CONFEDERATION STREET**—Two apartments in older renovated home. Separate services and self-contained on large lot. Home has been aluminum sided and in excellent condition. Full price \$23,900.00

**AIRDALE COURT**—Immaculate 5 bedroom just loaded with extras, including, main floor den, rec room, central air-conditioning, water softener, dishwasher, paved drive and garage. Owner transferred and must sell.

**BUILDING LOTS**—Country properties are selling fast, however, we still have quite a number of sites, many of which have unique features. If you plan a move to the country, now is the time to buy. Following is a small sample selection: **ELM TWP.** 2 1/2 acre lots \$5,900.00 each. **BALLINAFADE** 1/2 acre treed \$4,500.00. **OSPRINGE** 4 1/2 acres \$9,000.00. **ACTON** 1 acre, wooded \$9,500.00. **ELM TWP.** 3 acres, cabin \$10,900.00. **AIRPORT RD.** 10 acres, pond \$25,000.00. **TRAFALGAR RD.** 25 acres, \$25,000.00. **CAMPBELLVILLE** 13 acres, 1760' Hwy. frontage, \$13,900.00.

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**PRINCESS ANN DRIVE**—brick bungalow on large well landscaped lot. Extras include extra rec room, broadloom in living, dining area. Good mortgage available and vendor will help with financing. Try an offer.

**MCINTYRE CRESCENT**—Get in the swim this summer, clean bright 3 bedroom bungalow with attached garage, plus beautiful 30x15 ft. inground pool on treed and cedar hedged lot. Only \$25,900.00

**IRWIN CRESCENT**—Brick and aluminum side split on 63' lot. This beautiful almost new home is ideal for a growing family, with a family room ready for finishing touches. Try your down payment.



**BREATHTAKING RAVINE**—lot is the setting for this style setting two storey four bedroom home with main floor family room, patio door to garden, top quality shag carpet in living room, dining room, stairs and hall. Double garage and three bathrooms. Showroom condition. A must to see \$12,500.

**SEE**—This two storey older frame home that has many appealing features — fireplace in living room, three bedrooms, modern kitchen, oil heat and an oversize garage. Close to schools and downtown \$18,500

**YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE**—How nice this older home is till you inspect the inside. Huge 18'x24' family room, ultra modern kitchen, dining room and living room plus four bedrooms up. Two bathrooms, two car garage and a gorgeous 99'x132' treed lot. What more could you desire for just \$24,500

**MARCH RIGHT**—to the phone and find out all about this solid brick three bedroom bungalow with attached garage, hot water heat and excellent condition inside and out that selling for just \$25,900.

**FABULOUS BUY**—Priced to sell fast. Hurry! Fantastic condition inside and out, six room brick bungalow with carpet, fenced yard, recreation room and second bathroom roughed-in. Dining room and three bedrooms. Don't wait \$27,100.

**WHAT COULD BE BETTER**—Than having a home that's big enough for your family plus all the extras that make living a pleasure. This seven room, two-storey brick home should fit the bill. Recreation room, dining room, beautiful kitchen, two bathrooms, four bedrooms and a large formal living room. Attached garage and lovely lot. Low 7 1/2 percent mortgage that carries for \$174 monthly including taxes. Sale price \$30,800.

**DOUBLE HOUSE**—Two attached self contained homes with private entrances located in the ever popular Park district. Completely modernized and in top condition throughout. One has a fireplace in the family room, living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and bath. The other - three bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen and bath. Hedge against the high cost of living by occupying one half and renting the other \$31,500.



**A WOODED WONDERLAND**—The loudest noise is the breeze in the trees. Custom built, contemporary styled split level beauty on three and a half acres of complete heaven. Two fireplaces - the open hearth stone in the living room complements the exposed beamed ceiling and oak grain paneled wall. Another antique brick in the big family room. Formal dining room. Den with washroom off on same level as the oversized two car garage, plenty of room for the snowmobile too. Patio doors from master bedroom to huge balcony. Three bedrooms in all. Be first to see this exceptional home \$48,900.

# SPRING IS HERE !

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## TIME TO SELL!.....BUY!

**MARCH IN**—and insist on seeing this older two storey home that's located in a small village near Georgetown. Completely modernized inside, attached garage. (77x192) lot, nicely treed. Be quick! It's only \$23,800.

**CHECK THE EXTRAS**—Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer, shower enclosure, broadloom in the living room and dining room, carpet, TV tower with colour head and rotor. This lovely six room brick bungalow on a quiet crescent location with all its generous features is selling for only \$28,500.

**A REAL DELIGHT**—Cosy up to the open hearth floor to ceiling cut stone fireplace in the living room of this secluded two bedroom ranch style bungalow that's magnificently situated on a half acre lot in the Silvercreek area. A third bedroom plus two other rooms in the basement. Attached garage. Plus all the clear fresh air that you can breathe for only \$34,900.

**EXCLUSIVE RAVINE**—Lot 170'x210' in a prestige court location. Elegant split level home, two fireplaces, family room, recreation room, sewing room, four bedrooms and formal dining room. Bow window in the living room plus many outstanding features. Do make an appointment and see it at your earliest convenience \$47,500.

**FIREPLACE**—Picture your family roasting chestnuts on an open fire in the big beautiful family room of this elegant split-level home. Two car garage, three bedrooms - one ensuite, broadloom in the living room and dining room, super kitchen complete with matching frigidaire - refrigerator, stove and dishwasher. Prestige address \$39,000.

**COUNTRY RETREAT**—more than two acres of high and scenic property is the site for this most attractive white clapboard ranch bungalow. Two car garage, in-ground swimming pool for summer pleasure, grade level walk-out from recreation room, main floor family room, three bedrooms and two full bathrooms. Let's go see it today! \$39,900.

**UNREAL**—A setting of peace and tranquility among the tall trees on one full acre of privacy is this very livable eight room two storey brick home. Open hearth fireplace in the living room, separate dining room, dream kitchen, family room, four bedrooms and two bathrooms. A second fireplace roughed-in in the rec room area. Door directly to sundeck over the attached garage. A lot of living at an "unreal" price \$39,900.

**COUNTRY ELEGANCE**—The charm of special planning, sophisticated decor with stunning eye appeal and an excellent floor plan for zoned living, a place for every member of the family to do his own thing, is all yours in this handsome split-level home. 2,400 sq. ft. of finished space, brick and stone construction. Family planned kitchen with dinette, four bedrooms (bath ensuite), separate dining room (door to roofed-in patio), huge family room with stone fireplace and walkout to future pool area. Deep, deep pile broadloom on most floors. Laundry room - built-in cabinets, three bathrooms, two car garage plus maintenance-free aluminum soffit and eaves. Best of all it's situated on a one acre lot up a quiet country road one mile from a highway. Call Now! \$34,900.

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### COUNTRY HOMESITES

Ten acres near No. 24 Highway, wooded with lovely clearing for house \$7,200.

3 acres (151'x840'), separated and surveyed ready to build \$9,300.

One and a half acres, south of town, perfect building site for the commuter \$11,000.

Eight rolling - scenic acres near Erin, heavily wooded at rear, drill well, a real buy at \$13,900.



**COUNTRY SQUARE**—model - front to back split level home with fireplace in family room and patio doors to sun deck. Four bedrooms, bath ensuite, big formal dining room, garage and paved drive. Extra beautiful 65'x160' lot. Convenient to schools and shopping. Top condition \$31,900.

**BUSINESS & INVESTMENT PROPERTIES**

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**BRAND NEW**—Store in a busy neighborhood plaza, No. 7 Hwy. Over 1,000 sq. ft. with full basement that could be sublet. Total rental only \$300 monthly, less sublease of basement.

**FOOD MARKET**—excellent downtown location, good lease, marvelous opportunity to go into business on reasonable terms. Call for further information \$39,000.

**CENTRAL BUSINESS CORE**—Two storey solid masonry building in a good condition, 2,100 sq. ft. on main floor, full basement, oil heat. Call for further information \$58,000.

**WILL BUILD**—Prestige downtown office space to your requirements. Inquire for further details.

**EXCITING INVESTMENT**—We have just listed an eleven suite apartment building in a top residential district in Brampton that shows an excellent return on your money. Quiet all adult building, solid brick construction, hot water oil heat, asphalt parking lot. Don't wait! See it right away \$142,000

**VARIETY STORE AND SNACK BAR**—plus gas pumps and large modern three bedroom apartment, one thousand sq. ft. garage with 800 sq. ft. loft at rear of property. A grand family business in a picturesque village on the edge of Georgetown. The complete package business and building is going for just \$37,500.

**APARTMENT BUILDING**—We invite you to compare! Where can you get an investment that will give you a return on your money like this, plus a tax saving at the same time. Over \$15,000 gross income per year with a cash flow return on your money of about 14 percent. Call for further details. Full price only \$87,000.



**SPRING FED STREAM**—flows diagonally across the entire 85 acre farm. Aluminum clad four bedroom house, modern kitchen and bathroom. Bank barn and drive shed in fair condition. Drive out and look it over, for this price how could you miss \$68,000.

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