

### Monks open chapel

The Cistercian Monks have completed construction and furnishing of the new chapel on their property south of Georgetown, and can now accommodate about 20 people who would like to join them in prayer at the monastery.

Rev. Justin (Guibord), Superior of the Cistercian Monastery of Notre Dame at Georgetown, says visitors who wish to attend Mass at the monastery may do so at 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers will be sung at 4:45 p.m. on weekdays and 4:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Father Justin also announced that the necessary alterations to convert a small residence into a retreat house have been completed. The retreat will accommodate only four at one time. He said any men seeking a period of meditation and prayer "to recharge their spiritual batteries" or those who are seriously considering adopting a contemplative way of life, are asked to contact the Guestmaster by telephone at 877-1011, or by writing the Cistercian Monastery of Notre Dame, R.R.2, Georgetown.

Father Justin expressed gratitude for the way in which the people in the community have made the monks feel welcome.

"I think that, by and large, people in the area recognize and respect our special way of life. They appreciate our being here even though they have little or no contact with us," he said. "We always welcome visitors, but people must understand that our primary role is one of prayer and meditation. We have seven prayer services a day, starting at 3:15 a.m., periods of meditation, study, service to postulants and retreatants and work."

"I know that people will understand that, in a Cistercian monastery, prayer, meditation, work and silence will always take precedence," Father Justin continued. "Until such time as we are more numerous and better organized, we won't have much time for casual conversation with and guided tours for visitors."

"We've been made to feel welcome in this area and our offer of spiritual assistance through our chapel and our limited retreat facilities in addition to our life of prayer is our way of contributing something to the community in which we live," he added.

The Cistercian Monastery of Notre Dame was founded in December, 1977, by six monks from the monastery at Oka, Quebec. The Georgetown monastery, located on the 8th Line south of Georgetown, is the first English-language Cistercian monastery in Canada.

### Parking area urged

The sight of dozens of cars parked along public roads outside Terra Cotta Conservation Area during busy summer days is expected to become a thing of the past if a new \$3,000 parking lot can be established inside the park.

Members of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVCA's) parks and recreation advisory board last week discussed the apparent overcrowding of park facilities before agreeing with general superintendent Al Leach that a new parking lot is needed.

Mr. Leach told the board Thursday that cars owned by visitors to Terra Cotta park overflowed onto the highway outside the park a total of nine times during the past summer. Parking lots inside the conservation area were also filled to capacity on a number of other days, he added.

The board noted that police have been called to ticket cars parked along the highway outside the park at times, but some officers have been reluctant to do so on arrival. At any rate, the usual fine for illegal parking on the highway is less than the gate admission into the park, it was found.

The board generally agreed that Terra Cotta park is not over-used for recreational purposes, as some had been led to believe. CVCA information officer Joan Rollings pointed out that she had commented several years before that Terra Cotta was over-used for educational programs, and her statement may have been misinterpreted.

Park supervisor Herb Ford conceded that the park grounds are indeed "trampled" by hordes of visitors, but only for one day a week in the summer. Park staff has noticed that the picnic areas regenerate well during the balance of the week, he said.

Board member Roy McMillan estimated that the park will need to admit 6,000 more cars in order to finish paying for its year-old swimming pool. He suggested increasing the gate charge to \$4 or \$5.

Authority chairman Grant Clarkson pointed out that prices are now being sought for a new fence to surround the park.



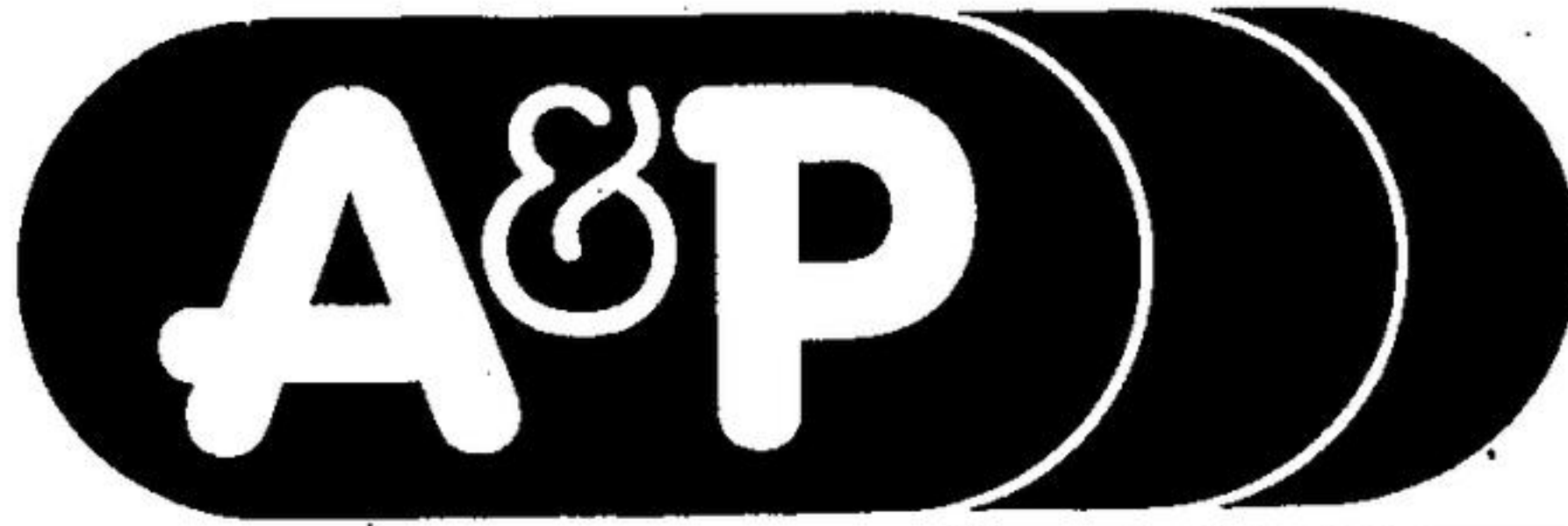
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