



Acton students are down to earth

By JOHN BOTTOMLEY
Herald special
Sixteen students at Acton high school have hardly seen the inside of their school since February. But they are not playing hockey. They are taking part in a course called the "down to earth program."

Under the guidance of Paul "Doc" Tamblin, they are learning canoeing, farm management, repelling, extreme first aid and winter camping, among other things: a basic course in how to get along outdoors.

The emphasis is on learning by experience, said Mr. Tamblin.

Cedar Creek equestrian center, a Grand River conservation authority run farm near the new Guelph Lake, was the site of the students' activities.

Students kept journals and wrote a short book about their experiences. They intend to publish the book for themselves.

OVERTURNING CANOE
An unplanned lesson in rescue techniques is sure to play a part in the book. While practicing canoeing on Fairy Lake, Ray Hinton, Bruce Swift and Doc Tamblin managed to overturn their canoe, spilling themselves into the chilly early April waters. The rest of the class learned their rescue techniques quickly.

The accident had not stopped the group from planning more canoe trips. They leave Monday for an eight day canoe trip, and when they get back from that, they will do some white-water canoeing on the Credit River.

If anything should happen, the students are well prepared. An extreme first aid course has taught them how to patch up various broken bones, to immobilize and transport an accident victim to hospital for full medical care.

EXPERIMENTS

The more intellectual side of working with the environment has not been neglected. Students learned tree identification and conducted experiments in solar heating and soil testing in the course of their three month program.

Students were left on their own for much of what they did, although Doc Tamblin was always present as a supervisor for canoeing work.

The course was limited to 16 students this year, but should grow to 20 next year. Economics limited the size of the class: the biggest bus they could afford was a 16 passenger van. The kids were paying for the bus themselves for the first month. "Then they proved their worth and were hired on," said Mr. Tamblin.



QUEEN'S SCOUT

Retiring District Commissioner for the North Halton Boy Scouts Murray Harrison, left, admires the Queen's Scout award earned by Paul St. Pierre of 5th Georgetown Troup. Paul received his award at the annual awards night in St. George's Anglican Church Monday.

(Herald photo)

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DEALERSHIP OPENS

Park Lincoln Mercury on Highway 7 just north of Georgetown played host to several special guests at Thursday's official opening, which was highlighted by a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the dealership's recent switch-over from Toyota to Ford models. On hand to watch Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed and Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy snip the

ribbon were co-owners Paul Macdonald (with beard) and Walter Dixon (to Mayor Pomeroy's left), as well as Ford Motor Company officials Douglas Jones, Dave George and Gerry Chorney and special guests Ward 2 Coun. Russ Miller, Rud Whiting, Hans Brinkmann and Peter Anderson.

(Herald photo)

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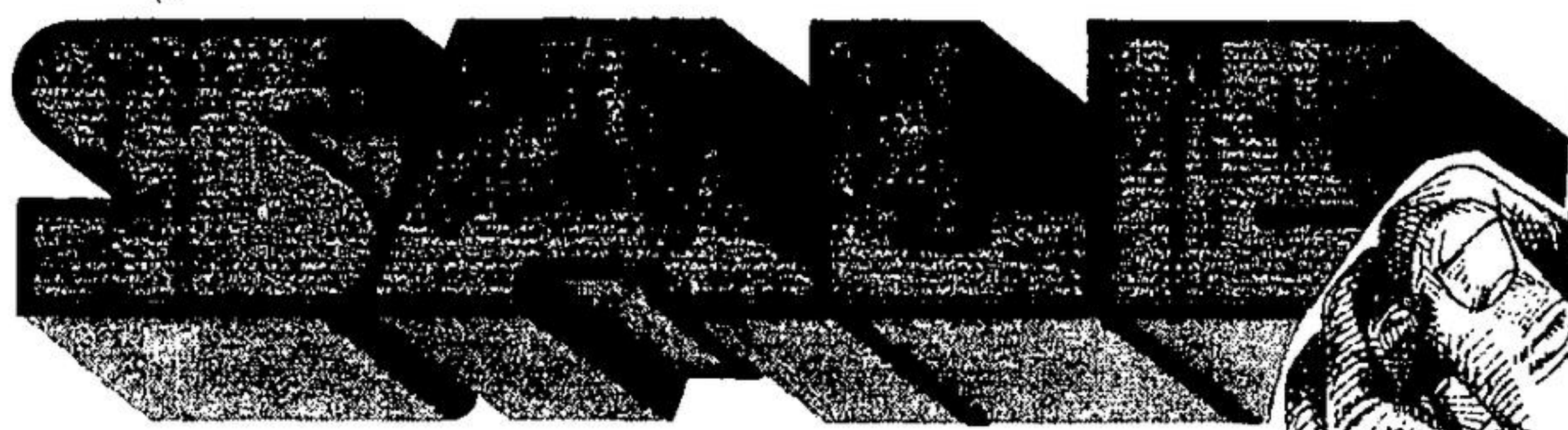
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