

Outers will brave cold in Winterfest snow cave



This photograph, taken by one of the members of the Outers Club, shows the group on one of their camping trips. The club makes several trips each year during all seasons. Club members shown here are, left to right, Dave Robinson, Carol Hering, Mr. Paul, Doug Isaac, Harold Branch, George Gruder, Heather Donaldson, Dave Heller, Mr. O'Reilly and Tim DeFreltas.

it will be and where the portages are."

PRIVATE SCHOOL
One girl's mother refused to give permission for her daughter to take part in the Outers Club's trips after the incident on Lake Temiskaming where a number of teachers and students from a private school were drowned, Doug said.

"We've never had any problems with swimming or near-drownings on any of our trips," he said. "At Temiskaming, they weren't prepared for the trip."

On the club's recent fall trip, the group did have a brief scare. They arrived at the lake at about 10 p.m. and still had to canoe out to their camp site. One of the teachers had gone ahead with another group and set up their camp site, and when the main group set out, one of the canoes went off on its own to find the other group's camp site, instead of staying with the main group, Doug said.

"It had us worried for a while. We went ahead to our camp site, sticking together for the rest of the way, and then we sent out one canoe to find the other canoe," he said. "They found them and brought them back to the camp site." "I feel that you should do

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QUITE A COLONY

The 14th Georgetown Beaver colony had a mass investiture Thursday at St. Andrew's Church, when 25 young men became Beavers. The new Beavers are Paul Burns, Grant Foreman, Terry Metler, Dean Robbins, Jason Smith, Geoffrey Thompson, William Fry, Michael McKinnon, Steven Robertson, David Roe, Doug Thompson, Cory Wlekham, Ryan Dannhee, John

MacLesh, Glen Osatchuk, David Spencer, Mark Tufford, Jason Wilkins, Jim Ashenburt, Craig Barrager, Shane Murray, Lee Shields, Thomas Spencer, Greg Tyrrell and Todd Wlekham. The leaders are John Delgudice, Ann Wlekham, Madeline Osatchuk, Connie Wilkins, Bob Rodrigue and Jim Basinger. (Herald photo)

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer

The list of people willing to forsake the comfort of their own warm beds to sleep in a snow cave in the middle of the woods is a short one, but it certainly includes the 15 members of the Outers Club.

In fact, sleeping in a snow cave is exactly what the Outers plan to do February 2 as part of the Jaycees' Winterfest. The club members, all students at Georgetown District High School, plan to spend the night before Winterfest sleeping in snow caves. They will also be participating in other winter activities to raise money for the club.

The members of the Outers Club and their teacher advisors, Mr. Bertelsen, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Colhrane share a love for the outdoors during all seasons, not just winter. The club has been going on wilderness trips for about four years, canoeing, back-packing and camping in different parts of Ontario.

Club president Doug Isaac, who has been a member for three years, says the club has changed its approach since he first joined.

"The first year I was there, we went as one big group, cooking our meals together and eating the same food," he said. "Now we go in groups of three or four, and it gives us more chance to practise camping skills and canoeing and things."

Many of the skills involved in camping, no matter what the season, can be learned in school, such as drawing up nutritious menus with food that can be back-packed easily, Doug said. Other skills, such as choosing a good camp site, and what to do first, have to be learned on the spot, he said.

COOK FOOD

"You get people who arrive at their camp site and the first thing they do is cook their food," Doug said. "Well, pretty soon, it's dark, and they don't know how to set up their tent in the dark and they don't know where to put it, and they have a real problem."

Each year, the Outers go on a fall canoe trip, a fall back-packing trip, a winter trip and a summer trip, Doug said. Last year, the club went on a

canoe trip in April. "It was for experienced people because the water is higher and rougher at that time of year," Doug said. The Outers usually take off the last day of the school year and embark on a five-day canoe trip. The club has gone on trips to Killarney, north of Georgian Bay, to the Saugeen River in the Port Elgin area, to Collingwood on an overnight winter trip and to Dorset, in the Lake of the Bays area.

It takes a lot of preparation to embark on these kind of trips, Doug said. The club members have received training in first aid and in rescue techniques, as well as the minimum swimming proficiency which the board of education requires before allowing these trips, he said.

"We haven't done a lot of studying of survival techniques, but we're headed in that direction," Doug said. "Mr. Bertelsen is going into orienteering, and he's teaching

us some of that." "It would be nice if everyone could look at a map and know which way to go, but we're slowly learning about that," he continued. "Before we leave on a trip, we show everybody where the trip will be, how long



DOUG ISAAC

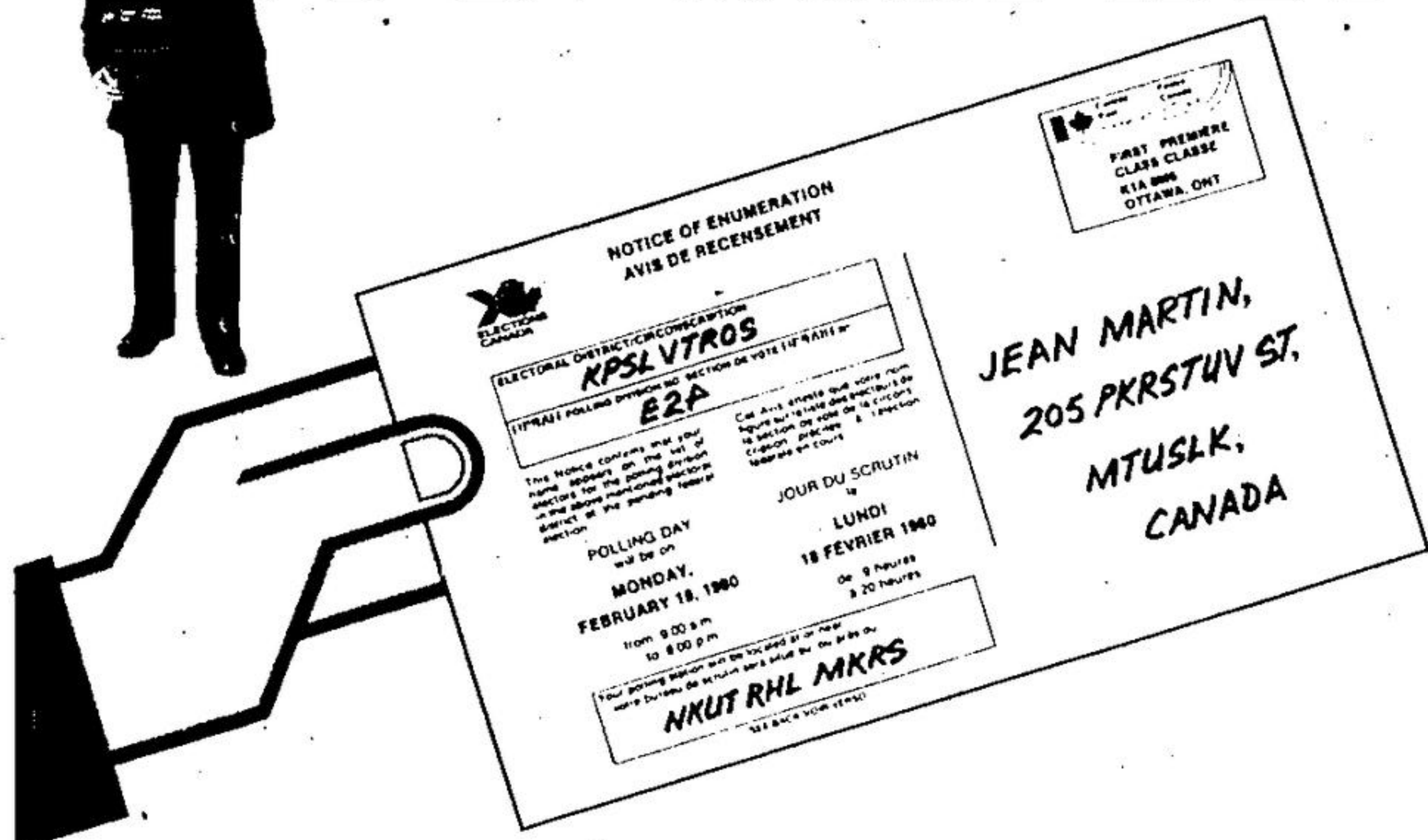
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