

# The Outers aren't afraid of the Great Outdoors

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"everything in groups and always stick together," Doug continued. "The faster ones should slow down when they're canoeing so everybody doesn't get too spread out. Plus which, the people who haven't as much experience can watch how the more experienced people do things."

Before each trip, a list is drawn up for club members, detailing the equipment that will be needed for that particular trip. A list from the winter hike and camp out which Doug had listed, in addition to warm clothing, a toque to be worn night and day to prevent heat loss, two summer sleeping bags wrapped in plastic or a winter sleeping bag rated for at least zero degrees Fahrenheit, long underwear, water-proof matches or lighter and a thermos with hot liquid.

**AXES FORBIDDEN**

Forbidden on all trips are axes, hatchets, machetes and transistor radios. Any transistor radios smuggled along are confiscated as soon as their presence is known.

"Before each trip, everybody brings in their equipment to be checked over," Doug

said. The club has purchased several canoes and rents additional ones where necessary once they get where they're going. The Outers are hoping to add to their equipment this year with the assistance of the students' council, which supplies them with funds. Doug said the club hopes to buy a canoe trailer and also a quality tent for use particularly in emergencies in the cold weather.

"The students supply much of the rest of the equipment themselves, and bring along their own food for the trip," Doug said.

Mr. Bertelsen emphasizes food that is light to carry but nutritious as well, Doug said. "I've tried pizza, but it didn't work so well, because I couldn't get it close enough to the fire to warm it," he said. "As a rule we go for nutritious things, not like pop and stuff like that. We bring things like hash browns and Polish sausages. Mr. Bertelsen is trying to encourage us to eat natural foods like we find in the woods."

"I guess the best food we had was steaks," Doug said. "I snuck them out of the freezer

before I left, and they were great when we got them cooked over the fire."

The club has six girls among its members, but the girls aren't relegated to doing the cooking while the boys canoe and set up camp, Doug said.

**CLEANSITE**

Doug emphasized that the Outers are very careful about leaving their camp sites clean "and better than we found it." He said the club always leaves some wood all ready for the next campers, because they remember how it felt after one long trip, to come into the camp site and find the wood already cut and waiting for them.

The trips don't always go smoothly, and that's where Mr. Bertelsen's philosophy of improvising probably comes in handy.

"Mr. Bertelsen goes on the philosophy that you can do it for nothing, or next to nothing, and that you can improvise on almost any piece of equipment," Doug said. "Mr. Bertelsen is very good with making do with what he has. One fall trip, we had a lot of rain, and he rigged himself up a shelter in a gully and stayed warm and dry."

Teachers and students don't always stay warm and dry when they're camping, though. On the overnight trip to Collingwood last year, the club got caught in a severe winter snow storm. There would have

been no problem, Doug said, except for the fact that some dogs walked over the top of some of the girls' snow caves where they were sleeping, and crushed them, leaving the girls with no place to sleep. Other arrangements had to be made for the duration.

"The weather works against us sometimes," Doug said. "When we went to Dorset, there was freezing rain, rain and snow. I've never seen such a cold trip in a long time. But some trips we've been on, like the trip to Killarney in the fall, have been just beautiful."

"I particularly like the winter trips," Doug said. "It

takes a lot of work to get everything set up, but once you've done what you have to do and you're warm, you feel good."

"We all like a challenge," he continued. "Everybody in the club likes it when we hit rapids because it makes it more of a challenge."

**ONE TRIP**

Doug described one trip down the Credit River in the spring when some of the Outers went white-water canoeing downstream from Georgetown. One of the teachers, Mr. Wright, supplied a two-person kayak which made it through some tall

rapids without trouble. But when the canoes went through, it was a different story.

"One of the canoes went through, where the rapids were about two or two and a half feet high, and the water just swept in," Doug said. "The canoe dropped down and bounced along the bottom. It was one of our canoes and that trip put about 12 holes in the bottom of the canoe."

Doug said the club is running out of wilderness areas close at hand to go to.

"On our trip to Dorset, we saw a lot of cottages along the shore, and I think it would be nicer without that kind of

stuff," he said.

Doug said he would like to see a credit course along the lines of Outward Bound at the high school.

The Outers Club has a pretty good safety record, Doug said, with the most serious injury, being a case of near hypothermia during the trip to Collingwood last year. As with all mistakes, the club

members learned something from that, and from their other experiences, Doug said.

"For me, I learn something for the next trip on almost every trip," he said.

"Whenever I complete a trip, I feel proud," Doug said. "We always try to set goals for ourselves on these trips and we always try to finish what we start out to do."

## Should report business trips

To the editor of The Herald:

The Toronto Star of Jan. 17 and 18 provided some interesting reports on the change of mind several Toronto Board of Education Trustees have had regarding an upcoming convention (all expenses paid) in England.

Perhaps you might find time

to report on similar activities of the Halton trustees, councillors, and administrators. I am sure many of your readers would be interested.

Too often we hear that these public officials are not paid a great deal and that little money is involved in relation to the total budget, but this tends to reinforce the belief that the individuals attending these conventions are enjoying a free ride at the taxpayer's expense.

The regional and local councils, and board of education should be prepared to inform the public through the media as to who is going where, outside the region, for what reason, and at what cost.

Refusal to provide this information would indicate that a "Freedom of Information Act" may be required at our local government level.

M. Johnson  
R.R. 2, Acton

## Silver switches stolen

Ten pounds worth of silver switching contacts, valued at \$15,000, were stolen from Smith and Stone last week.

A large quantity of audio equipment was stolen from a car parked on Peel Street. An attache case with a Sony cassette player and adaptor, a receiver-oscillator, student receivers, transducers, student transmitters, belts, cords and belt clips, with a total value of \$1,354, was stolen.

Vandals damaged six hood ornaments on vehicles parked at Andrew Murray Motors. Damage was estimated at \$300.

An extension ladder and 15 sheets of plywood were stolen from a property in Acton. Value of the missing items is estimated at \$300.

An Akai stereo receiver, a turntable and two speakers were stolen from a home on Fagan Drive.

A four-bed snowmobile trailer was stolen from the Silver creek Shell station last week.

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