

Letters to the Editor

Cliff-hangers, canoe trip

Full marks to unusual course

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Samuel de Champlain and a host of his contemporaries from the 17th century sat down with a packed audience in the Acton High School auditorium last Wednesday to talk about life in the New World.

The famous explorer's visit was part of a three-hour presentation by Acton high's senior total immersion history class, 16 members of which had just returned from a two-week, 250-mile canoe trip retracing the paths of early Canadian pioneers.

With slides and verbal descriptions, the students recounted for an audience of friends, relatives and classmates their well-planned journey into history, for which they donned period costumes and paddled the rivers once used by Upper Canada's fur-trading voyageurs.

The students also assumed

the characters of actual, historical personalities, led by de Champlain, who was "impersonated" for the occasion by course instructor Paul Tamblin.

The brainchild of Dr. Tamblin, Acton high's total immersion course pits students against impressive and often awesome challenges throughout the semester.

The total immersion group includes students in grades 11, 12 and 13. Credits are given for participation in the program, and students study social sciences, science and technology, English, environmental science and physical education.

The classrooms, however, range in size from a normal school room to the 80,000-square miles of Killarney Wilderness park on the shores of Georgian Bay.

The period costumes which

the students wore on-stage last Wednesday evening comprised a suitable introduction for their description of the recently completed North Bay-to-Ottawa canoe trip down the Ottawa River.

Earlier in the semester, the group had studied some of the original fur trade routes travelled by the "voyageurs." Dressed in their self-tailored leather "courier de bois" outfits, the students took two weeks to paddle the route, often having to portage 500-pound canoes around rapids. The canoes, except for two aluminum freight canoes brought along to hold camping gear, were fibre glass replicas of voyageur canoes used 400 years ago.

The students' complaints along the way were good-natured. The group tired of the diet of oatmeal, Red-River cereal, prunes and other high-carbohydrated "indelicacies". The weather was also bad, while the trek began under seasonal conditions, the group spent much of the time in rain and bitterly cold temperatures.

Teacher Bill Taylor, who accompanied Dr. Tamblin and the students on the trip, admitted that many students became ill as the trek neared its end. However, none of the students wished to quit until they reached Ottawa.

Both students and staff agreed that they had not only shared a number of unusual adventures but also a unique friendship and trust.

Rotary exchange student Peter Wetklo of Frankfurt, West Germany, emotionally thanked his fellow group members and the audience for the opportunity to have participated in the immersion program.

Mr. Tamblin told the parents in the audience that the relationship between the students and staff during the program had "taken a little bit of them from you." Mr. Tamblin was warmly hugged by the immersion group as the presentation neared an end.

Last week's presentation also recounted other adventures undertaken by the group.

Planning for a winter camping trip to Killarney last January was extensive. Students split themselves into four food groups to organize meals, studies were made to evaluate the warmth of sleeping bags and courses were given in cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.

The students also took first aid courses, including instruction on how to treat hypothermia, a condition in which the body temperature drops to well below normal.

The total immersion group spent most of its time honing winter survival skills, cutting wood and hiking to points around the camp. Again, the only complaints against the trip were good-natured: bad food and a lack of privacy.

The group also spent two weeks at the Toronto Sportsman show in February learning how to build a log cabin. In March, the students participated in a sugaring-off operation, learning the finer points of making maple syrup.

Earlier this spring students were required to climb up—and "rapelle" down—a 70-foot sheer rock face at Rattlesnake Point near Milton. Recalling the adventure, most students said it took a great deal of mustered courage to attempt the face and all agreed that the trust between climber and anchor man pulled the group closer together.

Parent responds to drug abuse issue in schools

To the editor of The Herald:
I wish to remain anonymous to protect the teachers, and those who could be affected by this letter.

As a parent of two persons, I made it my business to know about drugs, but too late. A "pusher" introduced himself to my youngest at age 15. He was 20 years old. She became infatuated with his attention and helped him sell marijuana

Writer receives praise

To the editor of The Herald:
I am writing to comment on one of your writers, Gerry Landsborough who, I understand is a Georgetown woman. Friends have passed some of her articles on to me.

I am very impressed with her writing. She seems to be well informed and ready to stand up for her convictions.

There were two articles which I found outstanding: one in May '79 about abortion and one in March '80 about genetic meddling.

I am very encouraged by this journalist who believes in God's Golden Rule and defends the innocent, especially unborn children.

I am looking forward to reading more articles by Mrs. Landsborough so please tell her to keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Valerie Wood.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Viewpoint columnist Gerry Landsborough is currently taking a well-deserved break from her writing chores; we'll make sure she gets the message.

More Juice
Submerging a lemon in hot water for 15 minutes before squeezing it will yield almost twice as much juice.

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GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH
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PASTOR PETER RALPH
Sunday, June 29, 1980
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.
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ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
Anglican
REV. ROSWELL TEES
Sunday, June 29, 1980
TRINITY IV
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Family Eucharist
(NURSERY)

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
177 Maple Ave. Georgetown
PASTOR EDWIN H. MITCHELL
Sunday, June 29, 1980
9:45 a.m. Family Bible School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship "FORGIVENESS"
Children's Church
6:30 p.m. Summer Sharing 1 Thes. 3.
THE TEXANS ARE COMING
JULY 13
25 YEARS AND GROWING

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Windsor Road at Carole St.
Vacancy Pastor
REV. ARTHUR RADER
Sunday, June 29, 1980
9 a.m. Worship Service
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Church of the Lutheran Hour



A reincarnated Samuel de Champlain? Not quite: Acton High's Dr. Paul Tamblin dressed as the famous 17th century explorer as part of the school's total immersion group account of a recent canoe trip down the Ottawa River from North Bay. The total immersion students dressed in period costumes for the presentation to parents held in Acton High a week ago Tuesday.



Acton High's Dr. Paul Tamblin is warmly hugged by a student who participated in his "total immersion" program in which students face and overcome a number of unusual challenges outside of the classroom. The students and Tamblin dressed in 17th century explorers' costumes a week ago Tuesday to tell parents about a recent canoe trip taken as part of the program.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1980
10:15 a.m. - Christian Education Hour
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Indoor Camp Meeting
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
June 29th & July 2nd
REV. DAN B. JORKMAN - WINDSOR ONTARIO

7:00 P.M. ONLY - "THE MASTERS" EVERYBODY WELCOME



URGE EMPLOYERS TO HIRE STUDENTS
Student placement officers from Canada employment centres in the area were on hand at the North Halton Golf and Country Club Friday to help students find work this summer. One officer pointed out that employers would save time and money if they hire students through the student placement program. Pictured (left to right) are Sharon Schoffelemeier, Phil Aitken, Sharon Greenslade and Mary Connor. (Herald photo)

Warning! Keep your cars locked

To the editor of The Herald:
On Thursday, June 19, I left my car for a few minutes to go in the drugstore in Delrex plaza.

When I returned, I found my return pop bottles had been stolen.

I just want the thief to know it was my children's meals for three days; maybe some day he will go to bed hungry.

Also to the thief: you are known, since the bottles were in special cases and when you cashed them in Loblaw's the clerk was alert enough to see it.

To other shoppers: lock your car, even if you only leave it for a few minutes.

Thanking you,
Barb Thomas,
Rexway Drive.,
Georgetown.

Thanks!

To the editor of The Herald:
On behalf of the 676(L) Lorne Scots Army Cadet Corps, I would like to thank you for your coverage of our Seventh Annual Inspection.

Seeing their names in print and their pictures in the paper meant a great deal to the Cadets.

Again, my sincere thanks for your co-operation.
Yours sincerely,
Captain J. Hodskins.

Dainty Flower Basket Bouquets for Bridesmaids.

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