



THE SKILLS OF SCOUTING

First Georgetown Scoutmaster George Henderson and an assistant showed final-year Cubs from across north Halton how to tie knots during an annual gathering at Everton Forest Camp near Acton May 23 and 24. There was plenty of valuable instruction in the use of axes, saws and knives, on hitching and lashing, on nature trails and even about the idea behind Scouting.

(Photo by Jean Layman)

You can help: Red Cross tackles Third World crises

EDITOR'S NOTE: Red Cross volunteers have submitted the following reports on emergency and other critical situations in the Third World which the Red Cross is attempting to alleviate. Your contributions enable the organization to maintain its services in these countries and mobilize emergency aid forces when sudden catastrophe strikes.

At this time, the greatest humanitarian needs in the world are to be found in Africa. Virtually every country on this continent is affected by numerous, often interrelated, emergency situations ranging from armed conflict to severe drought and the resulting refugee situation.

In addition to these immediate emergency situations, there is a need to develop stronger and self-reliant National Societies in these countries.

LEAGUE APPEAL
The League is appealing for \$17,277,000 (Canadian) for their operations in Eastern

Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda); in southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) West and Central Africa (Cameroon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal). This appeal is earmarked for disaster relief and development activities.

ANGOLA
Activities in the country are often hampered by problems of security, logistics and heavy rains. However, 12 flights from Francistown to the Planalto region have been completed, delivering 22 tons of relief goods and a number of vehicles. Four hundred tons of maize have been delivered by rail to the province of Huambo with 1,500 tons underway from the port of Lobito.

The ICRC is also locating a complete medical team at the Evangelical Hospital of Bailundo, which serves about 220,000 people. At present the level of medical services, both

in staff and equipment is virtually nonexistent due to the existing situation.

UGANDA
Needs have also reached crisis proportions in the West Nile province of Uganda, where serious unrest has caused the flight of 180,000 people to Zaire and the Sudan, and 60,000 to other areas of Uganda. Thousands of Ugandans have returned to their villages but having left them in haste, they are now completely destitute.

The ICRC is one of the few humanitarian organizations working in the West Nile province providing the affected people with basic needs such as blankets, soap, clothing and agricultural tools enabling them to once again work the fields, and move towards self-sufficiency.

During January and February a total of 28 tons of relief supplies have been distributed. In addition Red Cross visits to the same 6,000 detainees in 10

prisons throughout the country continue medical and other relief assistance is provided to the prisoners.

DJIBOUTI
Ten days of heavy rains have caused serious flooding throughout Djibouti town, affecting about 100,000 people. The official death toll was reported at 25 with over 7,000 homeless. The League has provided tents and blankets to the flood victims.

ETHIOPIA
Heavy rainfall in all regions of the South of Ethiopia have improved the drought situation and given hope for the future. Two new medical teams from the Finnish and Canadian Red Cross will be joining the operation during April and will continue the medical-nutritional programme in the province of Gamo Gafa. The Canadian team has been located in Demega.

Some 2.4 million of this country's 32 million inhabitants remain as displaced people, as a result of the ravages of drought and hostilities. The ICRC continues to provide the Ethiopian National Society with financial aid, and supplies necessary to operate the relief operations, with the regional Red Cross Branches undertaking the distribution of supplies.

between Kenya and Uganda and it's inhabited by 34,000 nomads who build manyattas (make-shift huts in small hamlet type groupings) near whatever water is available. When the water is gone the Pokot doctor, three Finnish nurses and a Norwegian co-ordinator. Two staff members of the Kenya Red Cross Society and six local Red Cross volunteers make up the numbers in this operation.

From the beginning advice was sought from the local experts, the Verona Fathers. As the Red Cross was complementing the missionaries' work (not competing with it) the Catholic Mission made everything possible available. They donated housing for the team members and a warehouse for the storing of food and blankets. Their transport augmented the Red Cross vehicles and their drivers assisted in the difficult transport of supplies.

The problem facing the Red Cross team and the local missionaries was threefold: First, an emergency crash programme was needed to enable the victims to survive. Second, a plan was needed to provide a medium term solution to the drought situation. And third, long term development was needed in order to provide the Pokot people with a means of securing a livelihood.

The first part of has been carried out - and continues. Four thousand victims have been provided with nourishment and medical care to enable them to survive.

The second part is being worked on by such means as arranging for more bore holes to be sunk so that the cattle will not starve.

Long term development is the next task to be tackled. So far it's in the planning stage as it means co-ordination between a great number of bodies, both governmental and private.

Meanwhile the problem continues. Enough food is being distributed to ensure the main taining of life. This will have to continue until such time as the crops will sustain life.



move on looking for a new supply.

Conditions right now are at emergency level. If the rainy season, which is supposed to start in March, doesn't materialize it'll be a full-blown disaster. As it is, ten per cent of the Pokot people were at death's door in November when their plight became known.

The drought meant no crops to add to their meagre diet of milk mixed with ox blood. To make matters worse, raiding parties from other tribes had stolen most of the cattle that hadn't died in the drought.

A Roman Catholic mission, the Verona Fathers, have been involved in food distribution, medical aid and education for the past eight years, but the scale of this crisis was beyond their scope.

Local Kenyan government action could only help a little as Kenya faces many shortages and there is a limit to the amount of public funding available.

When the Kenya Red Cross Society reported on the situation to the League of Red Cross Societies a relief team was sent immediately to help in the operation. The team is headed by a Swedish chief delegate and is manned by a Finnish

Hearing process not so complex

By GRACE PATTERSON
Canadian Environmental Law Association

The Hearing Process
A hearing is held to consider the application and concerns of interested citizens in all cases where a site is to deal with hazardous waste, or other waste which is equivalent to the domestic wastes of no fewer than 1500 people.

If a citizen feels that he or she might miss a notice in the newspapers for any reason, he or she may write to the Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Approvals Branch and ask to be notified. Another way to be informed as to the date of the hearing is to phone the municipal council for the area involved.

Once it is acknowledged that a hearing will be held, any citizens' group interested in fighting an application for a landfill site should retain a lawyer who is familiar with hearings before administrative tribunals.

Also, experts on the technical aspects of the proposal should be hired. The areas most likely to be relevant are hydrology (surface water), hydrogeology (groundwater), soil mechanics and engineering. Hiring experts



is expensive, but since the hearing is a technical one with the basic question being whether the containment system proposed will in fact contain wastes without polluting the atmosphere or the water table, a citizens' group is not likely to succeed unless it has retained experts who can criticize the site and suggest improvements in case it is approved.

If the Environmental Assessment Board does recommend against an application, and the Director of Approvals (who makes the final determination) turns down the application, the applicants have an automatic right of appeal, while any intervenors or objectors have no right of appeal.

Although this provision has been criticized extensively, no change in the legislation has come about to date.

Often, two hearings are held in relation to one landfill site proposal. If the site proposed is located in an area which is not designated

to allow this type of operation, or if the use is not permitted under the restricted area by-law of the municipality, a hearing may be held under The Planning Act before the Ontario Municipal Board. Although planning issues are the main expertise of the OMB, they will also listen to environment evidence, and there is some chance that an application might be turned down at the OMB stage.

The disadvantage of having two hearings is obviously that a great deal of time and money is wasted. Because of this, the Ministry of the Environment has promised legislation which would streamline the process and

provide for only one hearing which would deal with all aspects of the proposal.

Citizens and citizen groups concerned with waste disposal in their area have made substantial inroads by participating in the approvals process. For example, in the Maple case, substantial conditions were imposed even though the application was approved. Among the conditions was the requirement that citizens and the general public must be allowed access to monitoring reports and other documents related to the site and its operation.

Also, increasing pressure is being put on the Ministry of the Environment to step up efforts to use methods of waste disposal and recycling which do not continue to waste valuable land, especially agricultural land, and endanger the air and water supply systems close to the proposed waste disposal sites.

Although the Ministry of

the Environment has the mandate to protect and conserve the natural environment, it often acts in a way that appears inconsistent with that objective. For example, the MOE has proposed a South Cayuga location as a central facility for all types of wastes. They have exempted that project from the Environmental Assessment Act (which provides for a much broader review of a proposed facility) and from the EPA.

Pressure from Citizens' groups such as HOPE (Haldimand-Norfolk Organizations for a Pure Environ-

ment) will increase the chances of a proper assessment being done under legislation provided for that purpose. Public involvement in questioning proposals such as South Cayuga is not only useful; it appears to be necessary.

For more information on this and other topics, contact Community Legal Education Ontario, 25 Hughson Street South, Hamilton, Ont. L8N 2A5. For advice or assistance with the kinds of problems discussed in this column, call the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic, 5 Wesleyan Street, Georgetown, 877-5254.

Teachers learn to detect abuse

Teachers and principals in Halton will be receiving instruction on how to detect and deal with cases of suspected child abuse this fall.

The Halton Board of Education discussed a report which outlined administrative procedures for suspected child abuse at a meeting Thursday in Milton.

Trustee Len Crosier advised the board to seek advice regarding the legality of maintaining such a record. Administrative assistant Ruth Taber said it was necessary to keep some form of record in order to determine whether there was any pattern in certain cases of suspected abuse.

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