

# Tot Lots to MAD capers

During any week, the Tot Lot program was filled to its 24-child capacity. Kids between the ages of three and five headed for Acton's Prospect Park to participate in craft demonstrations, story telling, swimming and "Nurf-ball" games. If toddlers weren't getting an early taste of Halloween at Schneider's or baking bread at Saunderson's bakery, they were listening to wildlife messages from the Mounsbury Wildlife Centre's own puppet theatre. And then there was the visit to the Acton Fire Hall.

Older kids were learning some basic acting and artistic skills at schools in Acton and Georgetown as part of the annual MAD (Music, Art and Drama) program. There were no cutbacks in this program from a lack of registration, Miss Carney said.

While their younger brothers and sisters played nurf-ball, they made candles and leather crafts, adopted themes to act out and played musical instruments. There was even a performance for parents at Centennial Middle School in Georgetown at the end of July.

For some kids, not to mention their leaders, it was their second or third year back in the program. Most of the programs cost \$15 per week and the leaders ensured that events were different.

**ACTON CAMP**  
Some kids preferred to sample different activities from different groups. There was high registration in the sports camp, Miss Carney said which, for the first time, featured a sport and fitness school in Acton.

Run by Georgetown and District High School teachers Grant Clatsworthy, Bob McKay and Mike McMahon, the fitness camp has introduced youngsters to a number of new sports as well as work at improving acquired skills. Last year, its students made weekly visits to York University to use the gym and other recreational facilities; this year they headed to Guelph, spending time at the University pool, gym and even on the tennis courts.

Parents were especially helpful in the day camp program. Car pools were needed to take kids to the various "sleep-overs" at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area and the Blue Springs Scout Reserve near Acton. If they weren't helping behind the wheel, they were baking for their youngsters' participation in a bake sale.

Much of the success of this year's summer activities is rightfully shouldered by the 27 leaders and 14 leaders-in-training (LITs), some of them not much older than the kids under their supervision. Many of last year's LITs returned as leaders in 1981.

**NOT EASY**  
It's not easy becoming one of the rec department's squad of summer supervisory staff. You may train for a year and then take advanced training the following year. And you have to prove to your peers that you can instruct, teach and organize games and getting anxious youngsters to listen - sometimes for their own safety.

But Eva Carney is an old pro at this kind of thing. She's been supervising the summer programs for three years and is studying physical education at York University.

Although the grand "Time Warp" parade through Acton tomorrow (Thursday) night just about wraps up the summer activities (Friday is the last day), the leaders and the rec department's administration will sift through their notes and start planning for 1982.

Among the recreational areas currently being considered for additional growth next year is the gym camp. The department may also start staffing certain parks in Halton Hills with leaders, arranging a variety of different carrying on at the same time. This would allow youngsters to sample a number of activities in one day, rather than "specialize" in a particular theme during a MAD week.

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