

Travel centre has ski reports

Starting Dec. 6 at 7:10 a.m. daily, the Barrie Travel Centre will open four telephone lines for ski reports from the central, eastern, western and northern Ontario regions. The report is in broadcast format consisting of a lead-in and ad-lib as well as an informative description of alpine and cross country (nordic) ski conditions. This information is updated at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Canada News Wire receives a detailed report Monday through Friday by 7:30 a.m., giving daily surface conditions, base depths, new snow as well as lifts, slopes and trails in operation.

Broadcast News receives a telexed report Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday by 7:30 a.m. Broadcast News also receives a voice tape at 7:15 a.m., Thursday through Sunday providing the same information. An updated voice report is also given on Thursday, Friday and Saturday by 2:45 p.m.

Picture parade



Kelly Armstrong of Georgetown is seen here receiving a nice gift from the Jolly Old Fellow himself. Santa Claus was at the Halton County Radial Museum near Rockwood recently riding the old electric cars and giving children candy. He also dropped into the old station where handicrafts were on sale. (Photo by Myles Gilson)

Alcohol a factor in snowmobile accidents

Last winter 17 people died and 485 were injured in a total of 558 snowmobile accidents across Ontario. Alcohol was a factor in approximately half the fatal accidents according to the Ontario Provincial Police.

Some snowmobilers forget just how vulnerable they are to injury both on and off the road. Unlike a car or truck, the snowmobile offers little protection in the event of a sudden stop or collision. Usually the driver and passenger are thrown off the vehicle.

Off-road accidents occur when snow vehicles strike objects covered by snow such as rocks and tree stumps. Dips in terrain and wire fences are deadly to snowmobilers.

Ricklessness and alcohol increase the danger.

Barely-frozen lakes and rivers are treacherous when a heavy snowfall covers them. A snowmobile that plunges through thin ice too often takes its driver and passenger with it.

The OPP find the most common violations include: the lack of safety equipment such as lights and helmets; failure to register the snowmobile and allowing others to operate it; no insurance; driving across or alongside highways without having an operator's licence; disobeying road signs; failure to share the roadway; careless driving and impaired operation.

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EXAMPLES

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Animals have a Latin name

By RON REID
Federation of Ontario Naturalists

Every species of wildlife has a formal Latin name, which all too often seems designed only to plague biology students at examination time. But occasionally these scientific names do have special meanings, as in the case of *Tamias striatus*. This Greek-Latin combination for the eastern chipmunk roughly translates to "striped storer", and is an accurate description of both the coloration and the habits of this active little rodent of Ontario's woodlands.

As a snowfall approaches, the chipmunk is in a frenzy of storing, collecting seeds and nuts of all descriptions for his underground cache. A chipmunk at work is easy to identify, for his bulging cheeks will be stuffed with a heaping tablespoon of seeds or grains, making full use of the stretchable pouches inside the cheeks. The capacity of this little animal, seldom more than six inches in length, is amazing. Trapping surveys here disclosed up to 145 grains of wheat in one set of pouches, or 31 kernels of corn, or 13 prune pits, or a total of seven large acorns all at one time! The naturalist John Burroughs once tested the determination of his neighborhood chipmunks by providing a supply of hickory nuts and chestnuts by his doorstep. Over a period of three days one animal carried away more than a bushel!

Despite their friendly appearance, chipmunks are solitary animals, coming together only briefly for mating. The rest of the year they maintain separate territories, perhaps a hundred yards in diameter, and protect that range against invaders. The litters of two to eight young remain in the underground burrow for about a month before emerging, and then dispersing to establish new territories for themselves. If they escape the clutches of a hungry fox or owl, these youngsters can expect to live for up to three years in the wild.

So when a balloon-cheeked chipmunk scurries across the road in front of you, tail in the air, you know he is busy preparing for winter.



A graduation took place Nov. 29 at Knox Presbyterian Church where Lisa Ciggar, Heather McNeill, Michelle Robinson and Janet these girls moved up from Sharpe. (Photo by Daryl Maybanks) Pathfinders to Cadets. Seen here are

Lungs are for life

Art students and teachers are exposed each day to materials which are harmful to their lungs - If you are an artist or work with crafts, you should know the facts. Ask your Lung Association for help. Remember Lungs Are For Life.

ENJOY WINTER Outdoors THIS YEAR!

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