

Outlook on Halton Hills

Photographer joins in Arctic trek

In September, people from across Canada might be able to tune into CBC or TV Ontario and see Action resident Simon Wilson tracking across the Arctic.

Almost one year ago, Mr. Wilson left for a five-month expedition across the Canadian arctic. Accompanied with four others, Mr. Wilson was involved in the production of a film documentary which travelled on land never before stepped on by man, and captured wildlife on film that man had never before seen a human being.

When Hungarian film maker Peter Hamathy advertised for a crew of technicians and actors for his documentary in the Toronto Star, Mr. Wilson jumped at the chance to use his training in survival and his love of photography. At that time 26-years-old, Mr. Wilson was the eldest of his colleagues, a group of two men and two women ranging in age from as young as 22.

"The purpose of the film is to show people of Canada how much life is actually in the arctic", Mr. Wilson said. People view the arctic as a vast land of lifeless tundra, when in ac-

tual fact there is abundant life, he said.

The group travelled a total of 480 miles, entirely on foot and snowshoe, from Prosperous Park in Yellowknife to Coppermine, at the

winter survival equipment with them. At Grenstocking Lake in the North-West Territories, the group dropped off their winter equipment and picked up the summer materials, after 3 1/2 weeks delay as the snow melted.

The arctic spring is incredibly short, Mr. Wilson said. It was impossible to travel during that time, because of the large amounts of melting snow and ice. An airplane picked up the old equipment and dropped off the new, he said.

During the five-month expedition, Mr. Wilson and his colleagues encountered many a strange circumstance, some more comical than others. One day at Greenstocking Lake, while washing clothes in a river, Mr. Wilson was warned just in time by the shouts of his colleagues that a wild wolverine was running on a course straight at him.

The animal was not watching its path, Mr. Wilson said. Should the animal have kept going, it would have collided with him, he said. Luckily his shouts were able to avert the animal just in time.

Arctic Ocean. They started on April 22, 1986, and finished August 1, stopping only in bad weather. Mr. Wilson was required to carry a 60-80 lb load every day, for ten miles per day.

"It took two or three weeks before I was able to walk on a flat surface again, because my legs were so used to the uneven tundra," Mr. Wilson said.

Mr. Wilson brought along his own photography equipment, and took over 1,000 pictures. He is hoping to display some of his pictures in a local gallery for the public to view.

Though Mr. Wilson did have a solid background in camping survival, he confesses to never having experienced an adventure quite as large as this one. In the documentary which has yet to be given a name, Mr. Wilson was a character, as well as an occasional narrator.

The expedition was divided into two parts: a winter and a summer section. For the first 140 miles, the group travelled entirely by sleighs and snowshoes, carrying all their

Simon Wilson



Fast Kub Kars

Prizes were awarded to the fastest kub kars at a regional meet April 11 in Georgetown. The first prize went to Paul Gyger of 1st Milton while Thomas Sternetz of 7th Oakville was second. Chris Roehrig of 3rd Milton was third and Marcus L'ami of 9th Oakville was 4th.

The regional kub kar rally was co-ordinated by Elaine Hannah and her committee. Each cub participating received a prize in the draw. Thanks goes out to all leaders and parents assisting.

On another occasion, a black bear came right into the camp of the group. Needless to say, no one felt very comfortable following the incident.

Mr. Wilson fell through the ice at Point Lake one time, and was pulled out by one of his companions.

The group witnessed a great diversity of wild animals during their expedition. They were able to capture on film the migrating herd of caribou, grizzly bears, fox, and muskats, to name only a few.

Mr. Wilson has a Bachelor of Science degree, specializing in botany, from Trent University. He also has survival-in-the-bush training from Humber College, and does freelance photography including portraits and photojournalism.

Curator asked to appear before council

Halton Region Museum Curator Ernie Buchner is being invited to the town's general committee meeting.

Councillors want to hear what he has to say about museums in the Region, particularly in Halton Hills. They've also asked their staff to report on the options presented in a museum feasibility study undertaken for Halton Region.

Coun. John McDonald, chairman of the museum committee, brought forward a motion that supported centralization of management for all municipally owned museums under Halton Region. Halton Region Museum would direct and delegate.

Before supporting this motion councillors wanted more information.

Coun. Gerald Rennie said he preferred Halton Region to have a co-ordinating role instead. Halton Region Museum would keep its present program and interpretation format but would also assume responsibility for co-ordinating the efforts of other Halton museums in education program development, and heritage theme promotion to tourists.

"It seems to be centralization is rather heavy handed now," Coun. Rennie said. He said he preferred retaining autonomy yet getting Regional help. "We're in an infantile state as far as Halton museums are concerned."

Coun. Sheldon also supports a co-ordinating role for Halton Region Museum.

Contract awarded

J.C. Duff Ltd., of Limehouse has won the Region's bid for 19 mm clear stone and for crusher run stone.

Duff will be sharing the contract for crusher run stone with United Aggregates Ltd., of Brampton. The stone is used for sewer and water excavations, road washouts, gravel resurfacing and shouldering.

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HOUSES NEEDED. Call Mike for a personal and free evaluation of your home. (Not intended to solicit homes already listed)