

Outlook on Halton Hills



The Acton Public Library Summer Reading Club held its graduating ceremonies at the Acton Library Aug. 20. In all, 29 kids read their way to a diploma. The kids

were treated to a puppet show at the ceremonies. Here, some puppeteers keep three of the children entertained. Back row left to right, Maria Ot-

to, Sheila Britton and Claire Hockley. Front row left to right, Travis Ella, Nichole Lee and Michael Johanson. (Herald photo)

Seniors day program

Halton Centennial Manor is looking for outgoing and concerned volunteers to assist with various programs offered to our seniors. Whether you can knit, call bingo numbers, or just sit and chat, there's a place for you at Halton Centennial Manor. Volunteers are such important people. They offer residents

special attention and time that is much needed and appreciated. Can you contribute one hour of your time per week to a senior who needs you? If you are interested in brightening up someone's day, or would just like to find out more about our programs, call Victoria Graszal, 878-4141.

Manor needs volunteers

Milton Place Seniors Day Program, located in Halton Centennial Manor, needs volunteer drivers. The program, which runs 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., needs volunteers to pick up and drop off clients. Drivers are needed Monday to Friday, during the morning and the afternoon for approximately one hour. A class "G" license is required and a van is provided for the volunteer to transport the clients. Volunteers are needed immediately, in order

to accommodate the seniors from the community who have no other means of transportation. Please call today for more information on how you can help seniors in your community, 878-4141. Please ask for Victoria Graszal, Volunteer Coordinator.

Concert raises \$500

The concert and theatre show outdoors last weekend at Cedarvale Park to support the Open Door drop-in and the anti-drug campaign raised \$500.

The event was co-sponsored by the local Drug Abuse Committee (D.A.C.) and Open Door. Each of the organizers will share in the proceeds.

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Late summer woods interesting to visit

The woods in late summer can almost be as quiet as the mid-winter woods. Since most birds have finished breeding they no longer sing in defence of their nesting territories. Instead, they skulk silently through undergrowth and leafy branches, feeding and building strength for the long trip south that many will soon undertake. Indeed, some have already departed.

The late summer woods however, can still be an interesting place to visit and though the birds are less noticeable, so too are the legions of biting insects that plague hikers on early summer jaunts.

Summer and fall is a time when wildflowers and other flora recapture some of the attention afforded them in spring. Asters and goldenrod brighten fields and roadsides. Jewelweed and cardinal flowers grace streambanks and red-berried bushes contrast beautifully with the more subdued colours of their environment. Vines - wild cucumber, virginia creeper, grape and clematis contribute a show of flowers and fruit.

The conical flowers of the jewelweed are usually orange, but yellow and purple varieties exist as well. The larger purple flowered jewelweed is much less common than the orange form - in fact, I have never seen this variety described in texts.

It is however, locally abundant on the banks of silver creek where the stream skirts the edge of the Eighth Line, just south of Maple Avenue in Georgetown.

Backyard Naturalist

BY DON SCALLEN
 Herald Special



The flowers of jewelweed develop into seed pods, that when ripe, explode at a touch of a finger - a most effective seed dispersal mechanism.

Cardinal flowers, like jewelweed

favor wet areas along streams or moist fields. The intense red flower spikes are held aloft on stems that may reach five feet. In common with other beautiful wildflowers, the cardinal flower has suffered from over-picking. In some areas this picking has eliminated it entirely.

In Halton, look for the cardinal flower along streams in Halton Regional Forest, but please don't pick the flowers.

Ripening berries are another feature of the late summer landscape - many of which are as colourful as the wildflowers. The highbush cranberry is a shrub that bears brilliant red berries that, because birds find them unpalatable, cling to the plant through the fall and into

the winter. This cranberry and its European counterpart, the European highbush cranberry, are now widely planted as ornamentals. The native variety occurs naturally throughout Halton.

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