

Norval News

By KAY WILSON
Norval Correspondent

Brampton WI

NORVAL-Seventeen members of the Brampton West Women's Institute travelled south to Mississauga, for their June meeting. The public relations convenor, Isabelle McClure, arranged a tour of the new Mississauga Civic Centre.

They met the guide in the Great Hall, where they were shown a video on the history of Mississauga, dating from 1805 to the present. They were then taken on a tour of the building including the council chambers and mayor's office, and were told many aspects of the building. She told them from the clock tower you could see if the SkyDome roof was open or closed.

A delicious lunch was enjoyed in the cafeteria, which is on the twelfth floor, and has a great view of the surrounding area.

The president Mae Dixon conducted a short business meeting in the Green House Room after lunch.

Family reunion

NORVAL-Gord McMurchy of Huttonville hosted a family reunion on Sunday, June 25, following the baptism of his grandson's christening in Huttonville United Church, at the 11 a.m. service. Colton Griffin, son of Brian and Jane (McMurchy) Slater of Anmore, Vancouver, B.C. was baptized by the Rev. Walter Ridley. Following the service around 30 close family relatives and friends enjoyed a buffet dinner.

Strawberry social

NORVAL-Pinegrove Community Club held their annual strawberry social on Monday evening, June 26, at the community hall. Around 30 people attended. Following the dessert of strawberry shortcake, members enjoyed a game of euchre, or visiting outdoors on the warm summer evening. Winners at

euchre were Jean Harrop, Prairie Bessey, Alan Harrop and Francis Thompson. Lucky draws were won by Mable Brownlow and Bruce Thatcher, courtesy of Mae Brander who helped convene the evening with Kay Wilson.

Church closed

NORVAL-Norval United Church will be closed for the month of July, when members will be free to worship in Norval Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. or neighboring churches. Come August the Presbyterian Church will close and their members will be welcomed across the highway at the United Church morning service at 11:15 a.m.

Pleasant visit

NORVAL-A pleasant surprise visit to Spencer and Kay Wilson from Guy and Eunice Wilson of the Halton Manor, Milton and daughter-in-law Anne Wilson, RR1 Norval on Monday, July 3. Anne had Guy and Eunice out for a scenic drive through the country side. They visited their former Tenth Line residence, and farm, where their grandson David Wilson and his wife Maureen now live. David, like all other farmers these days, was busily "bringing in the hay."

Guy and Eunice were also pleasantly surprised to have a visit the day before at the Milton Manor, from Marjorie Wilson, formerly of Charles St., Georgetown, and now of Avalone Nursing Home, Orangeville, and daughter Marilyn Reeve of Caledon. Marjorie is quite well, but is confined to a wheelchair.

Get well

NORVAL-Get well wishes to Ella Laidlaw, RR2 Norval, who is convalescing at home following a short stay in Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton.

Benxi primitive, speaker says

An interesting and informative talk on her recent trip to China was given by Mrs. Joyce Hutton at the meeting of Unit One of Norval United Church UCW held at the home of Mrs. Kay Wilson on Tuesday afternoon, June 20.

Joyce paid her own expenses to go with the trade delegation from the City of Brampton when they visited their twin city, Benxi, in the northern part of China. Benxi is considered a small place in China, only having a population of one million people. It isn't even heard of in the rest of China.

While in Benxi they visited several schools and were charmed in one school to hear the class sing "Land of the Silver Birch" in Chinese to which Joyce responded by singing it in English, which delighted the whole class.

On their journey through China they realized the appalling lack of communication between the government and the ordinary people. City people, as well as the 80 per cent of the population who work the land, have no way of knowing anything except what the government wants them to hear.

Although having read about living conditions in China they, nevertheless, suffered from culture shock.

Conditions were very primitive in most places. Water is a luxury, and running tap water is scarcely available. Hotels have tap water but there is usually no hot water in the mornings. Cities are not kept as clean as our cities because they do not have the water to spare. All garbage including manure, human as well as animal, is used as fertilizer on the land, making the water unfit for foreigners to drink. The visitors cleaned their teeth with Coca Cola.

But the Chinese people,

themselves, made up for a lot of the cultural deficiencies by being very kind and very hospitable. They made the Bramptonians most welcome on every occasion. In most places they were treated like royalty.

In an attempt to keep the largest population in the world down, the Chinese families are only allowed to have one child. If they have more than one, they will lose various privileges, such as choosing the type of school their children will be allowed to attend. The father could even lose his job.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Great Wall of China. Only when you see it do you realize the immensity of this project, built over 2,000 years ago. The wall was started in 214 BC to keep out invaders from the north and building was continued for hundreds of years until the wall reached all across the north of China. Here you gain a sense of the thousands of years of Chinese history compared to our 200 years.

While travelling on a main highway by bus from Benxi to the city of Shenyang, the bus got stuck in a huge pot hole. The mayor's chauffeur-driven car going ahead got through successfully, but not the big bus. The mayor and other city dignitaries assisted in filling in the hole with whatever they could gather from the side of the road until they got the bus out. The Brampton group were not allowed to assist. Now they know what a real pot hole looks like!

Other cities visited were Xion,

Beijing, the capital of China with a population of six and a half million, and Quanzhou. At Beijing they visited the 'Forbidden City', now a tourist attraction. Here they were shown through the many buildings. They visited the palace where the emperors had lived but were never allowed to leave the compound. The Bramptonians also saw the separate residence of the empress. Back then, there were separate houses for the concubine, the eunuchs and all the various servants and staff who cared for all the people. All these elaborately-built buildings and gardens were behind a high wall.

One of the walls with the entrance to the Forbidden City forms one side of the very large Tianamen Square so much in the news recently. Fortunately the students were not in the square when the Brampton group were there. The terrible massacre happened a few weeks later after the Brampton people were home.

Joyce displayed some of the many artifacts she brought home with her from China and they were interesting to all.

Mrs. Agnes Miller gave the courtesies thanking Joyce for her informative talk. The hostess, Mrs. Ethel Webb presented Joyce with a pretty African Violet plant.

The enjoyable afternoon started with the hostess serving a beautifully decorated birthday cake with ice cream and strawberries in honor of Mrs. Eunice Wilson, who celebrated her 86th birthday June 22.

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